AL-KISA FOUNDATION

UNDER THE CLOAK OF GUIDANCE AND MERCY

Muharram Project Kit

MUHARRAM 1438 | 2016

There is no day like your day, O' Aba Abdillah

AL-KISA FOUNDATION

UNDER THE CLOAK OF GUIDANCE AND MERCY

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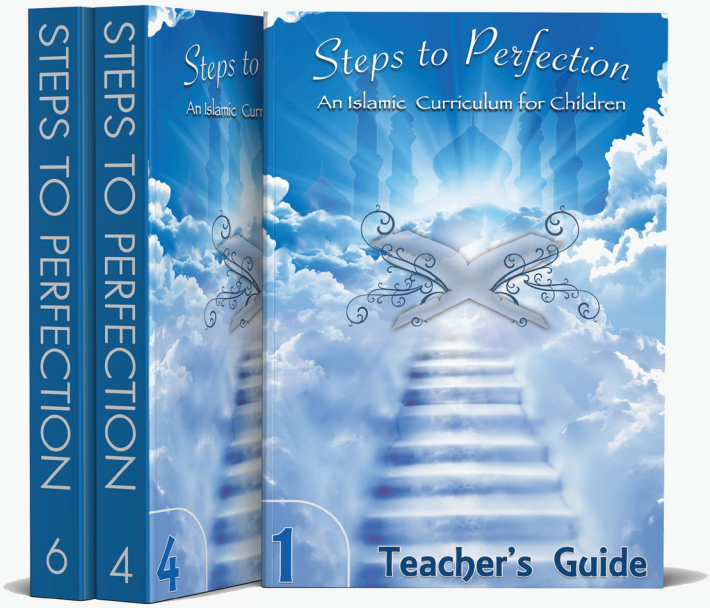
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

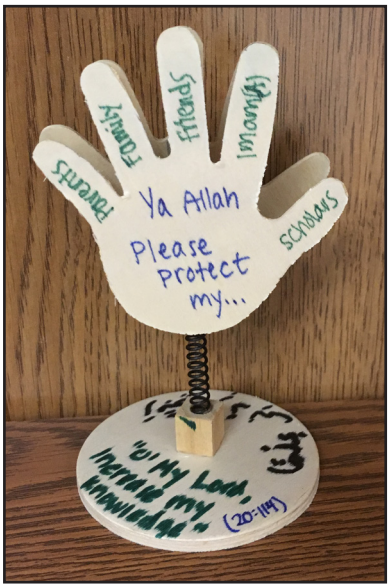


ISLAMIC CURRICULUM

ISLAMIC PROJECTS

LESSON PLANS

Project #1: Du'a Hands



Objective: Students will learn about the importance of du'a and how they can use their hands to pray to Allah (SWT).

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

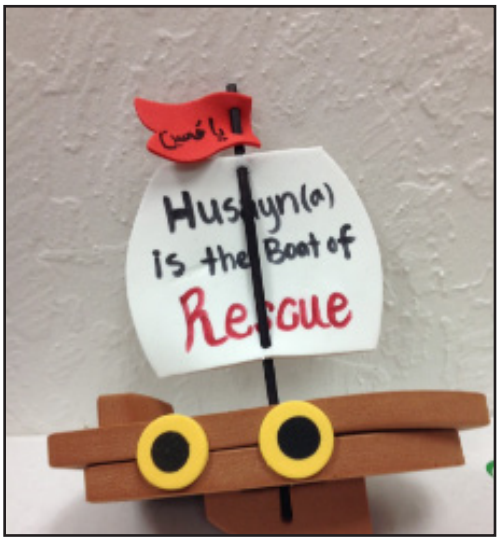
- DIY Hands Noteholder
- Sharpies
- Du'a printouts

Procedure:

1. Ask students what Du'a is. Du'a is prayer. It is a way of asking Allah for our needs and wants. Why do we do du'a? Doesn't Allah know what we want? Yes, He does, but He loves to hear our voice and wants us to ask Him. Allah told Prophet Musa (A) to ask for even the salt for his food, because everything we have is from Allah.
2. When we pray, there are certain etiquette for our Du'as to be answered quicker
    - Sandwich each du'a with a Salawaat (because Salawaat is a du'a that Allah always answers, and He is too merciful to accept the beginning and end and reject what's in the middle)
    - Pray for others before yourself (remember all the Muslims around the world who are sick, poor, oppressed, etc.)
    - Pray for the Imam of the time
    - Do Tawassul to the Ahlul Bayt (A)
    - Ask Allah for forgiveness
    - Make a condition that you only want your Du'a to be answered if it is good for you
3. On the whiteboard, brainstorm a list of actions or people who you would like to pray for. Remember to include Ahlul Bayt, the Imam of our time, parents, family, the poor, the oppressed, the sick, etc.
4. Hand each student a noteholder. Have them write "Ya Allah" in the middle of the hand, and on each finger have them write what they would like to ask Allah (SWT) for. They can then decorate it however they would like.
5. Give each student a card to put into their card holder to take home when they have completed writing on and decorating their noteholder.

Project #2: The Boat of Rescue (Safinatun Najaah)

Objective: Students will learn about one of titles of Imam Husain (A), Safinatun Najaah (The Ark of Salvation), as well as what it really means.



Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 Minutes

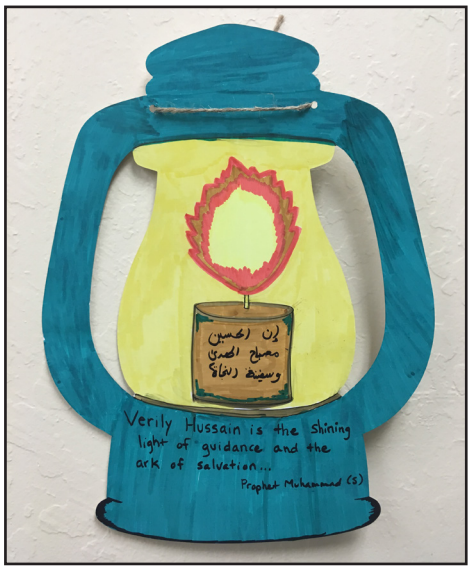
Materials:

- Foam Boat kit
- Sharpies
- *Glitter glue (optional, not included)*

Procedure:

1. Narrate the following hadith to the students or write it on the board: "Surely, Husain (A) is the lantern of guidance and the ark of salvation (simplified: boat of rescue)." -Prophet Muhammad (S) (Bihar ul-Anwaar, Vol. 36, P. 204)
2. Ask them what they think it means when the Prophet (S) says that Imam Husain (A) is the boat of rescue? Consider the following talking points:
3. The purpose of a boat is to transport you to a destination. The boat of Imam Husain (a) transports us to our desired destination: Jannah (Heaven).
4. A boat saves you from rocky waters; similarly, the boat of Imam Husain (A) keeps you afloat in the dunya.
5. How can we make sure that we are a passenger on this boat? What are some actions we can do? (E.g., praying, loving the Ahlul Bayt, being kind, respecting our parents, etc.)
6. Follow the instructions given with the boat kits to assemble the boats.
7. Students can decorate their boats by writing the hadith onto it and/or writing Ya Husain using sharpies or glitter glue.

Project #3: The Lantern of Guidance (Mishbah ul-Huda)



Objective: Students will learn that the Prophet (S) said that Imam Husain (A) was the lantern of guidance and what this truly means.

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 45 Minutes

Materials:

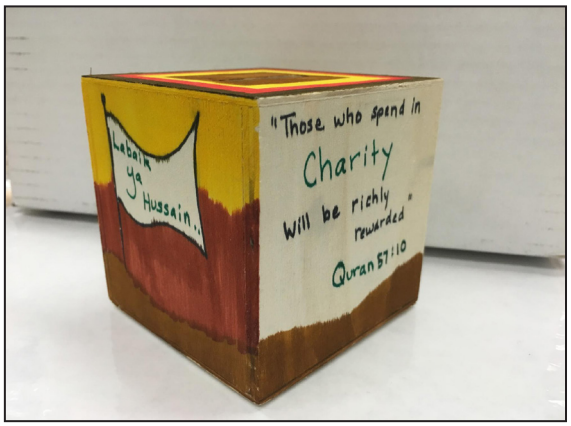
- Blank paper lantern
- Markers

Procedure:

1. Narrate the following hadith to the students or write it on the board: "Surely, Husain (A) is the lantern of guidance (simplified: light of guidance) and the ark of salvation (simplified: boat of rescue)." -Prophet Muhammad (S) [Bihar ul-Anwaar, Vol. 36, P. 204]
2. Ask them what they think it means when the Prophet (S) says that Imam Husain (A) is the lantern of guidance? Consider the following talking points:
3. When it is dark, a lantern provides us with light so that we don't get lost and know where to go. Similarly, while all of mankind was lost in the darkness, Imam Husain (A) was the light that showed them the path of Allah (SWT).
4. By showing us the way, a lantern also keeps us safe from falling and getting hurt. Again, Imam Husain (A) was a bright light that kept our souls safe and protected us from hurting our souls by doing things that would make Allah unhappy.
5. Through his light, what are some things that Imam Husain (A) guided us towards? (E.g., praying, having Tawakkul, loving the Ahlul Bayt, listening to our parents, giving charity, standing up for the truth/justice, etc.)
6. Is the lantern of Imam Husain (A) still shining bright today? How do we know this? Where do we see his bright light of guidance?
7. Pass out a blank paper lantern to each student. They can decorate the lantern with markers by drawing a flame and writing the hadith on it, as well as "Ya Husain (A)" on the other side

Project #4: Sadaqa Boxes

Objective: Students will learn about the significance/ importance of sadaqa through Quranic Ayahs and ahadith of the Ahlul Bayt.



Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 45 Minutes

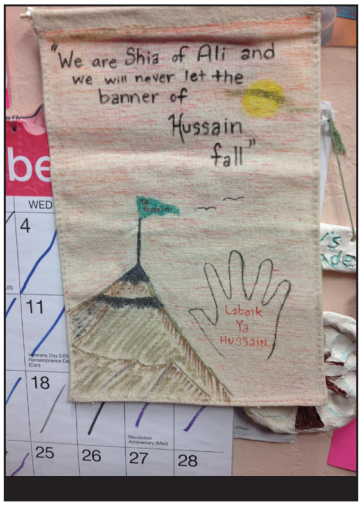
Materials:

- Wooden sadaqa boxes
- Sharpies
- Foam letters
- *Stickers (optional, not included)*
- *Paint & Paintbrushes (optional, not included)*
- *Glitter/Glitter glue (optional, not included)*

Procedure:

1. Ask students why Imam Husain (A) was so great and why we remember him every year. (Wait for answers until someone mentions because he was a very good person and did actions that made Allah happy).
2. Emphasize that Imam Husain (A) and his family and companions did many things to make Allah happy. Ask for examples. Emphasize that one of the many good deeds that Imam Husain (A) and his companions did was give *Sadaqa* in their lives. Ask students if anyone knows what that is and wait for answers.
3. Talk to students about the significance of Sadaqa in Islam. Mention the following points:
   a. What is Sadaqa?
   b. Why do we give Sadaqa?
   c. How often should we give Sadaqa?
   d. What are some things we can give as Sadaqa?
      i. Money (even as little as pennies), toys, clothes, even a smile!
   e. What are some benefits of giving Sadaqa?
      i. Protects us from calamities/hardships
      ii. Allah will return multifold
      iii. Helps the poor and needy
      iv. Keeps away sickness
4. Tell students that they will be making sadaqa jars to keep in their homes so that they can be in the practice of always taking out sadaqa. Whenever the jar fills up, they can bring the money and put it in one of the sadaqa boxes at the masjid.
5. Allow students to decorate their sadaqa jars with sharpies, foam letters, stickers, or paint and glitter if you choose. On the whiteboard, write a hadith/ayah about sadaqa that they can copy onto their sadaqa jars. Some ideas:
   a. "Those who spend (in the cause of Allah) privately or publicly, by night and day, have their reward with their Lord." (The Holy Quran 2:274)
   b. "Give charity and cure your sick people by it, because charity can surely remove your bad fortunes and illnesses; and it gives you a longer life and more rewards." – Prophet Muhammad (S) [Kanzul Ummal, Vol. 6, P. 371]

Project #5: The Banner of Husain (A)



Objective: Students will learn about the concept of *bay'ah* and write their own pledge to Imam Husain (A).

Ages: 5+

Time: 45 minutes

Materials:

- DIY Canvas Banners
- Permanent markers

Procedure:

1. Ask students if they know what the word *bay'ah* means. *Bay'ah* means to pledge allegiance to someone, or promise them that you will always support them. Who should we give *bay'ah* to?
   a. The Prophet (S) and the Imams (A)
2. One of the reasons that Yazid wanted to kill Imam Husain (A) was because Imam Husain (A) refused to give *bay'ah* to Yazid. Why do you think Imam Husain (A) did this.
   a. Yazid was openly sinning and making fun of the truth and religion of Islam. He could not follow an evil man like Yazid.
3. By giving our *bay'ah* to Imam Husain (A) we are saying that O' Imam Husain (A) we will always support you and carry your flag. We will be proud to be your followers, and we will stand up for the truth and against evil.
4. Today one of the best ways we can do bay'ah to Imam Husain (A) is by waiting for the arrival of our 12th Imam (AJ). Remember, our waiting should be with learning more about Islam and doing good deeds.
5. Tell students that we will be creating banners that show our *bay'ah* to Imam Husain (A). On the banners, we will be writing, **"We are the Shia of Ali (A), and we will never let the banner of Imam Husain (A) fall. We are awaiting the arrival of our 12th Imam."** and they will be tracing their hand to represent their own pledge to Imam Husain (A).
6. Hand each student a banner. Allow students to use permanent markers or fabric marker to trace their hands and write the saying. After students have written and traced their hands, they may decorate the rest of their banner.

Project #6: Quran Covers

Objective: Students will learn about the importance of keeping a relationship with the Quran and following what it has to say.

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 45 minutes

Materials:

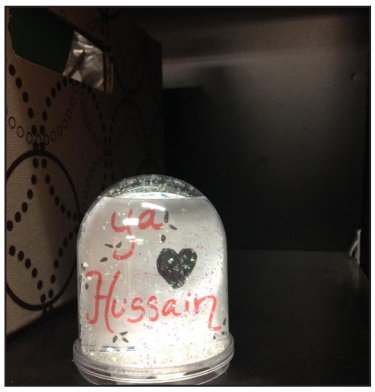
- DIY Canvas Quran Covers
- Fabric Markers

Procedure:

1. Ask students: As Muslims, which book do we turn to for guidance? (the Quran)
2. The Quran is a guidebook on how we should live our lives. It tells us what we should do, what we shouldn't do, and how we should do things. But are all the rules of Islam in the Quran?
3. The Prophet (S) left behind 2 things for us: The Quran and the Ahlul Bayt (A). The two go hand-in-hand; the Ahlul Bayt help us understand the Quran and tell us about rules that are not in the Quran. Did you know the Imams are called the talking Quran?
4. Imam Husain (A) was an example of the talking Quran. All his actions and words were according to the Quran.
5. One of the reasons Imam Husain (A) died is so that the truth would remain strong. Maybe more than anything, he wanted for us to build a relationship with the Quran and uphold its teachings so that we can make good choices and become strong Muslims. We should try our best to read as much Quran as we can, and more importantly, understand and practice what it is that we're reading.
6. Tonight, we will be making carrying cases for our Qurans. We will decorate them and use them to carry our Qurans with us.
7. Pass out the Quran covers and markers. Allow students to decorate their covers as they wish. They can go home and put their Qurans inside of these covers to take to Sunday School, etc.

Project #7: Ziyaarah Globe

Objective: Students will learn about the significance of Ziyarah to the shrine of Imam Husain (A)



Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 45 Minutes

Materials:

- DIY snow globes
- Markers
- Imam Husain (A) shrine pictures

Procedure:

1. Ask students if they know what "Ziyaarah" means. Ziyaarah means to visit someone. Who do we do ziyaraah of?The Prophet (S), the Imams (A)
2. Ask students if they know why we do ziyaarah? Can't we just visit the Imams from here? When you love someone who lives far away, like your grandparent, don't you want to visit them? Why can't you just skype them? You can, but visiting them is more special and allows you to build a deeper bond with them.
3. We do Ziyaarah because certain places have a special barakah. The shrines of the Prophet (S) and the Imams hold special blessings. People go to Ziyaraah, because these are some of the places where du'as are answered. By visiting the shrines of the Imams, we are also able to increase our imaan and move closer to Allah, since they have a special barakaah.
4. Tell students that since we cannot be in the shrine of Imam Husain (A), we will be making snow globes with a picture of the shrine, and a side where they can add a special du'a to ask Allah to grant them ziyaraah of Imam Husain (A).
5. Before handing out snow globes, fill water in the holes on the bottom. Shut the hole. Remove the paper that is inserted, and use that as a template to cut out the Karbala printouts. (You can do this ahead of time or have students do it).
6. Hand each student a snow globe. Allow students to decorate their snow globes with words that describe their love for Imam Husain (A) or du'a for their own ziyaarah to Imam Husain's (AS) shrine one day.
7. Allow students to discuss what they wrote on their snow globes when they are done, if time allows.

Project #8: Abbas' Water Bag

Objective: Students will learn about Hadhrat Abbas and his sacrifice of getting water for the loved ones of Imam Husain (A)

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 45 minutes

Materials:

- DIY canvas water bottle holder
- Fabric markers

Procedure:

1. Tell the story of Hadhrat Abbas to the students. Talk about how he sacrificed his life and lost his hands for the sake of his Imam (A]), and how we should also try to serve our Imam, as this will help us to please Allah (SWT). Discuss the sacrifice that he endured for trying to help the followers of Imam Husain (A).
2. On the whiteboard, brainstorm a list of qualities that represent the love and sacrifice Hadhrat Abbas made. Some ideas: loyalty, truth, bravery, servant, taqwa, courage, etc.
3. Hand each student a DIY canvas bottle holder. Have them use fabric markers to decorate their "Ya Abbas" water bottle holder by writing some of the qualities that represent Hadhrat Abbas.
4. Remind students that each time we drink water, we should remember the thirst of Hadhrat Abbas, Imam Husain (A), and his companions and say the following du'a:

Salawaatullahi 'alaal Husain wa ahle baytihi wa ashaabihi wa la'anatullahi 'alaa qaatilihi wa 'aadaaihi

May the blessings of Allah be upon Husain (A), his family, and his friends and may Allah remove His mercy from the killers and enemies of Imam Husain (A)

Project #9: Sands of Karbala (Night of Ashura)

Objective: Students will discuss the message that was given to Umm Salamah on the 10th of Muharram.

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 30 minutes

Materials:

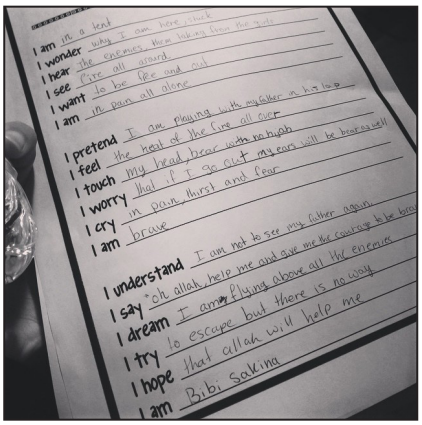
- DIY Message in a Bottle
- Red food coloring
- Mini funnels

Procedure:

1. Narrate the following story to students:
   The wife of Prophet Muhammad (S), Umm Salamah has said, "One day, Imam Husain (A) entered the Prophet's (S) room while I was sitting at the door. I notice that the Prophet (S) had something in his hand that he was turning over while Imam Hussain (A) was sleeping on his stomach. I asked, 'O' messenger of Allah, I saw you turning something over in your hand while Imam Husain (A) was sleeping on your stomach and your tears were pouring.' He replied, 'Angel Jibra'eel came to me with the sand upon which he (Imam Husain) will be killed, and he informed me that my nation (umma) will kill him."

   Umm Salamah kept the sand with her, and on the day of Ashura, at 'Asr time, it turned red – signifying the death of Imam Husain (A). She began crying, and when they asked her why, she answered that Imam Husain (A) had been killed.
2. Allow students to discuss what was revealed to Umm Salamah, and the significance of the Prophet (S) knowing of the demise of his own grandchild.
3. Provide students with the DIY bottle; They can use the funnels, have volunteers support the younger children with adding in the sand.
4. Have students write a small message or drawing to Imam Husain (A) that they can add into the bottle.
5. Lastly, have the students add red food coloring into the sand **(volunteers must monitor usage as only 2-3 small drops are needed),** and shake well. As soon as the dye has covered the sand in red and is dry (5-7 min), have the students drop in the small paper in their sand bottle and close. The bottle can be a remembrance of the sand that turned red in Karbala.

Project #10:"I Am" Poem (Ashura Day or Shaam-e-Ghareeban)


I am in a tent
I wonder why I am here alone
I hear the enemies there talking from the walls
I see fire all around
I want to be free and all
I am in pain all alone
I pretend I am playing with my father on his back
I feel the heat of the fire all over
I touch my head, hear with no hijab
I worry that if I go out my ears will be hearing all
I cry in pain, thirst and fear
I am brave
I understand I am not to see my father again
I say "oh allah, help me and give me the courage to be brave
I dream I am flying above all the enemies
I try to escape but there is no way
I hope that allah will help me
I am Bibi Sakina

Objective: Students will learn about the events of Shaam-e-Ghareeban and express their emotions in a moving poem.

Suggested Ages: 6+

Time: 30 Minutes

Materials:

- "I Am" Poem templates
- Nainawa Soundtrack (http://tinyurl.com/NainawaSounds)
- Pens/pencils

Procedure:

1. On the night of Shaam-e-Ghareebaan, narrate the tragic events of the evening to the children, with the Nainawa soundtrack playing in the background.
2. Describe the tragedies that the family of Imam Husain (A) went through — Zaynab (A), Sakina (A), Imam as-Sajjad (A), and the others.
3. Ask students to write "I Am" poems from the perspective of someone who was present in karbala — real or fictitious.
4. Students may share their poems aloud if they wish, when everyone is done.

SPEECHES

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

اللهم صلى على محمد و آل محمد و عجل فرجهم

السلام عليك يا ابا عبد الله الحسين عليه السلام

General Guidelines

Speech Structure:

- Start with Du'a of Imam Mahdi (AJ) (Dua al-Faraj)
- Main speech
- Museebah
  - It's nice to turn off the lights and turn on a few lamps
  - Recite the Salaam to Imam Husain (A):

اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ا بَا عَبْدِ اَللَّهِ

وَعَلَىٰ اَلا رْوَاحِ اَلَّتِي حَلَّتْ بِفِنَائِكَ

عَلَيْكَ مِنِّي سَلاَمُ اَللَّهِ ا بَداً

مَا بَقيتُ وَبَقِيَ اَللَّيْلُ وَاَلنَّهَارُ

وَلاَ جَعَلَهُ اَللَّهُ آخِرَ اَلْعَهْدِ مِنِّي لِزِيَارَتِكُمْ

اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَىٰ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ عَلِيِّ بْنِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ ا وْلاَدِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ ا صْحَابِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

  - Children usually repeat the last 4 lines
  - We usually recite the last 4 lines 3 times and dedicate them:
    1. in hopes of manifesting the qualities we learnt about
    2. for our parents
    3. for the Imam (AJ) of the time
  - Recite the museebah
  - End with a few du'as
    - "O' Allah, please protect our *ulema* (scholars) and parents" (Say Ilaahi Ameen and encourage kids to repeat, so it slowly becomes a habit)
    - "O' Allah, please give us the strength to always make good choices" (Ilaahi Ameen)
    - "O' Allah, please help us to become the close friends and helpers of Imam Mahdi (AJ)" (Ilaahi Ameen)
    - "O' Allah, please protect all the children around the world and give them food and shelter" (Ilaahi Ameen)
    - "O' Allah please hasten the reappearance of the Imam so we can finally live as good Muslims in a safe world" (Ilaahi Ameen)

Speech #1: Goodness to Parents

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
وَالْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلاةُ وَالسَّلامُ عَلى أَشْرَفِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ اَبِى الْقَاسِمِ مُحَمَّد
وَعَلى آلِهِ الطَّيِّبِينَ الطَّاهِرِينَ سِيَّمَا بَقِيَّةُ اللهِ فِى الْاَرَضِين

Lesson Objectives:

- Children will learn about the importance of being good to parents
- Children will learn how they can be good to their parents in a practical manner

Lecture Content:

Today, we are going to talk about a golden key — this golden key can inshaAllah open up great treasures both in this world and especially in the next world. Using this can be difficult sometimes, and easy other times, but it is one of the most important keys we have.

Every successful person you see, like our Ulema, scholars, and all the good people that you see were able to become good, successful people because they used this key very carefully. I bet you're dying to know what this golden key is. This very valuable key is being kind to our parents. In the Quran, Allah says that we should "Worship Allah and be good to your parents. And when they get older, don't even say 'uff' to them."

Now, in Arabic, "uff" is not even a word; it's a sound that we sometimes make when we are reacting to something. It's kind of like when you ask your parents to do something and they say "no," and then you turn around and say "ugh." This is what the Quran means by "uff."

In Islam, we have ahadith that mention what happens when people are good to their parents, as well as ahadith that discuss the bad things that happen if you *aren't* good to your parents. So, tonight we will be talking about people who use this golden key to success, and those who do not. Also, sometimes you see people who are successful in the material sense, but they may not be happy in the spiritual sense. So, we will discuss what happens on both sides.

Let's first understand just how great the status of parents is in Islam. One day, the Prophet (S) said to his companions, "A good child is a child who looks at his or her parents with love, and every time they look, they get the thawaab of one accepted Hajj!"

Wow! Has anyone's parent been for Hajj? Isn't it a really long trip?! People usually stay there for at least 2-3 weeks. Yet, if you are good to your parents, you automatically receive the thawaab of a Hajj trip!

That's not it, though! The story continues. After the Prophet (S) mentioned this, his companions asked, "O' Rasulullah, so a child who does this 100 times will get the reward of that many Hajj?!"

The Prophet (S) answered, "Yes, of course. Allah will grant them extra blessings for every single goodness they do for their parents!" So, we now understand that Allah opens up many doors for us if we honor our parents!
It is said that whoever is good to their parents will become the best at what they do. They won't just get nice things in Jannah, but they will see the reward in this world, too! So, that means if you want to be a good engineer, be good to your parents. Do you want to be the best doctor? Be good to your parents!

Now, when Allah tells us to be good to our parents, He uses the word *ihsaana*; what does *ihsaan* mean? *Ihsaan* comes from *Husna*. Can you think of a word that sounds like *Husna*, or rather a name? (Wait for answers). Yes, you are right: Hasan and Husain!

Both Imam Hasan (A) and Imam Husain (A) would show the highest level of kindness to their parents. They would listen to them and help them even before their parents could ask! They showed goodness through their actions. Their door was always open for people who wanted to ask questions and search for the truth. In their lifetime, there were many times they gave away their money to help the less fortunate. They were good to Muslims, non-Muslims, children, animals, and everyone else!

So, now we understand that *Ihsaan* comes from *Husna*, and that we have to strive for that goodness towards our parents. But why? Well, we all know that Allah created us, and that He gave us everything, including our parents. So, if He is telling us to be good to them, then we should probably listen because, after all, He knows best.

Think of it this way. Pretend you have a really fancy computer, and someone who has never used a computer in his life comes and tells you how to use it. Would you listen? No, of course not, because this person doesn't know what he is talking about.

However, if an engineer from Google or Microsoft comes and tells us how to use the computer, we will most likely listen and follow his instructions because we know he has made computers and knows the best way to use them.

So, it is not just anyone telling us about how to treat our parents; these instructions that we need to be good to our parents are coming from Allah, and He knows best.

So, we now understand that we have to be good to our parents and why, but let's talk about how we can do this.

One way we can be good to our parents is by doing good actions even before they ask us. The Prophet (S) and Ahlul Bayt (A) have showed and told us about this method. For example, if your family is sitting at the dining table and everyone has finished eating, instead of waiting for your mom or dad to ask you to clean up, you can get up and do it. If you see crumbs on the floor, sweep them up. If there are dishes in the sink, wash them.

Why do we always have to wait for our parents to tell us to do it? We know what they would like, so we should do it even before they ask! So when we say goodness, it's not waiting for them to tell us; it's us working and doing good deeds even before they ask us.

Another way that we can be good to our parents is by showing them love and respect, whether it's at home or in public. We can show them love by kissing them, hugging them, and showing affection. Did you know that it's even Islamically recommended to kiss their feet?! You might think "eww" or that it's wrong, but let me tell you a story.

One day, this man had a really big problem. It was such a big problem that we would all think it's impossible to solve. The man wanted help with his problem, so he prayed, "O' Allah, please help me, and if you do, I will kiss the door of Jannah!"

Well, pretty soon, his problem was fixed, but now he had another problem! He had promised that he would kiss the door of Jannah, but how was he supposed to do that? So, he walked over to the Prophet's (S) house to ask him.

The Prophet (S) first said, "Why did you make such a big promise?"

The man replied, "My problem was so big that I was desperate, so this was the only thing I could think of!"

The Prophet (S) replied, "Alright, then I want you to go home and kiss the feet of your mother." The man started crying. As the Noble Prophet (S) said: Heaven is under the feet of the mother.

The Prophet (S) was surprised and asked the man, "Why are you crying? I just gave you the answer to your problem."

The man answered, "My mother died, so I can't kiss her feet."

The Prophet (S), said, "Ok, it's no problem. Go to her grave, and go to the section of the grave that has her feet, and kiss it."

The man began crying even more!

Rasulullah then said, "What has happened now?"

The man replied, "My mother died when I was very young. We were travelling in the desert, and she passed away, so I do not know exactly where she was buried."

The Prophet (S) then said, "Okay, go to an area where you mother may be buried. Find a place, make a triangle, and make the intention to kiss your mother's feet. With that, it's like you are kissing the door of Jannah."

So, you see, if you want the door to Jannah, and you want all the blessings, your parents are the key!

So, how else can we be good to our parents? Well, we can say thank you! And I don't just mean saying the words, but also being grateful for everything they do for us. We can be respectful by letting them walk in front of us and by letting them always speak and not interrupting them.

We have so many ahadith that emphasize all the things we should do for our parents. Even if our parents aren't Muslim, we should still be good to them! One day, a man who had recently become Muslim came to Imam as-Sadiq (A) and asked, "O' my Imam, my mother is not a Muslim, shall I still be nice to her?"

The Imam (A) replied, "You have to even be nicer, because now that you are a Muslim, it is very important for you to be good to your parents."

So, the man went home, and he was extra, extra nice to his mother. He would do her laundry and help her with anything that she needed. One day, the mother said to her son, "O' my son, you have always been nice to me; however, now that you are Muslim, you are even nicer! What has happened?"

Her son replied, "My Imam and my religion teach me to be good to my parents."

His mother was very pleased and asked her son if she could meet the Imam. The son said "Of course" and took her to see the Imam (A).

She met Imam as-Sadiq (A) and learned more about Islam, and soon she became Muslim herself!

Another time, a man came up to Prophet Isa (A) and asked, "Can you please show me the path to Jannah?!"

Prophet Isa (A) replied, "You must be careful of what you want from Allah, and you must also be good to your parents, and that is the path to Jannah."

So, as you can see, we have to try our best and put energy and effort into being good to our parents. Sometimes, our parents will tell us no or maybe they do something we do not like, but we always have to remember how important they are! The Prophet (S) has said that, "Allah's happiness is with the happiness of your parents, and His anger is also when you are unkind to your parents." So, if we want Allah to be happy with us, we should make sure that we make them happy.

We pray that Allah gives us all the strength and tawfeeq to be good to our parents and always make them happy, so that Allah is also happy with us!

Museebah:

اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ا بَا عَبْدِ اَللَّهِ

وَعَلَىٰ اَلا رْوَاحِ اَلَّتِي حَلَّتْ بِفِنَائِكَ

عَلَيْكَ مِنِّي سَلاَمُ اَللَّهِ ا بَداً

مَا بَقيتُ وَبَقِيَ اَللَّيْلُ وَاَلنَّهَارُ

وَلاَ جَعَلَهُ اَللَّهُ آخِرَ اَلْعَهْدِ مِنِّي لِزِيَارَتِكُمْ

اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَىٰ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ عَلِيِّ بْنِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ ا وْلاَدِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ ا صْحَابِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

It's the first night of Muharram. Even though we're not in Karbala, our hearts are in Karbala insha'Allah. Imam as-Sadiq (A) says that if you can't go to Karbala to visit Imam Husain (A), face the Qibla and say 3 times, "Assalamu Alayka Ya Aba Abdillah – peace and blessing be upon you O' Aba Abdillah."

Another hadith says go to a very high place and say with all your heart "Assalamu alayka ya Aba Abdillah."

When Imam Husain (A) reached Karbala, he stopped. He knew this was the land he was destined to make the great sacrifice. Karbala comes from the words Karb — difficulties and hardships — and Bala — Trials. Indeed, Imam Husain (A) would go through many hardships and trials here.

One scholar, whenever he would finish reading *tasbih* after *Salaah,* he would always say "Assalamu alayka ya Aba Abdillah."

Someone asked him, "Why do you do this? Is this part of the prayer?"

He replied, "No, it is not part of the prayer, but Imam Husain (A) has given us so much. How can I not remember him? This *Salaah* that I have is from Imam Husain (A)."
Let me give you beautiful hadith. Imam Husain (A) himself went to his son, Imam as-Sajjad (A) and said, "O' Shia,s every time your drink water, remember me!"
The Prophet (S) has said, "Husain is from me and I am from Husain." Meaning, Imam Husain's (A) body and soul are a part of our Noble and beloved Prophet (S). Our prayer and our religion are all protected because of the great sacrifice of Imam Husain (A) in Karbala.

Even 35 years after the events in Karbala, every time Imam as-Sajjad (A), the son of Imam Husain (A), saw water, he would say "O' people! My father was killed thirsty next to a river full of water."

Water is a basic need for every human being. When Hurr's army stopped Imam Husain (A) from going forward, Imam Husain (A) quenched the thirst of Hur's army. But O' Imam Husain (A) the enemies kept the water from you, the grandson of the Prophet, your little kids, little Sakina, little Ali Asghar. The kids would be so thirsty and hungry, at times they would lift their shirts crying, "Please, we need water!"

Speech #2: Tawfeeq

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
وَالْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلاةُ وَالسَّلامُ عَلَى أَشْرَفِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ اَبِى الْقَاسِمِ مُحَمَّد
وَعَلَى آلِهِ الطَّيِّبِينَ الطَّاهِرِينَ سِيَّمَا بَقِيَّةُ اللهِ فِى الْاَرَضِين

Lecture Objectives:

- Children will learn about *tawfeeq*, a special blessing from Allah.
- Children will learn how they can increase their *tawfeeq*.

Lecture Content:

Imam Husain (A) wrote many letters before he left his home in Medina, explaining to people why he was going against Yazeed and inviting them to join him. This way, he could spread awareness about his journey and message. After all, he didn't leave by himself; he and his family left their home to save the religion of Islam and spread the message of truth. It is because of his sacrifice and Shahaadah that we are sitting here today, 1400 years later, remembering him and practicing true Islam.

One of the letters that Imam Husain (A) wrote was to Habib ibn Madahir, a very old man, who was one of his dear friends and companions. Even though the letter Imam Husain (A) sent to him was very short, sometimes all it takes is one word to wake up a pure heart. He wrote to Habib:

"From Husain, son of Ali, to a learned man:
O' Habib, do not be stingy (cheap) with your life towards us.
I, Husain, promise you that my grandfather Rasulullah will answer and repay you for your sacrifice."

Just these few words were enough to affect Habib. As soon as he read this letter, he took his good friend Muslim ibn Awsaja, and they headed towards Karbala. You see, this is what it means to be a good friend — when you take someone else's hand and bring them with you to goodness because you want them to have the best in this world and the hereafter.

Sayyidah Zainab, the sister of Imam Husain (A) tells a beautiful story. She says, "As the day of Ashura came closer, I saw that the enemy army was getting bigger and bigger, and as I looked at the Muslim army, not only were we small, but we were getting even smaller because some people were leaving. I was looking out into the desert, when I saw a black dot in the distance, and noticed two people were coming towards us.

I turned towards Imam Husain (A) and asked, 'Who are these two?'

The Imam (A) replied, 'These are my soldiers, Habib ibn Madahir and Muslim ibn Awsaja.' I became very happy and said please give Habib my salaams."

The Imam (A) went to meet and greet the two of them and said, "My sister Zainab sends her salaam."

They say that when Habib heard this, he was so affected that he took a fistful of dirt and put it on his face. You must be wondering why he did this. He was trying to say "Who am I that Zainab has given me her salaams?! I am nobody!" He felt so honored that Zainab was thinking about him and praying for him.

This Habib is the same person who, on the night of Ashura, went towards the tent of Sayyidah Zainab with a few others and said, "My lady, be sure that we will not leave Imam Husain alone (A). As long as we are alive, nothing, not even one scratch, will occur to the son of Zahra (A)."

So, you see how Habib took this letter to heart. With just one piece of advice, he was able to make such a big change.This, my dear brothers and sisters, is called *tawfeeq*.

Tawqeef is like a special blessing given to us from Allah. For example, look at us tonight. We are sitting here in the majlis of Imam Husain (A), learning something. We're not in the hallways talking and wasting our time; we're not at home, watching TV. We are blessed to be here tonight in this beautiful atmosphere, while others are not here. The same applies to day of Ashura; some responded to the call of Imam Husain (A) when he said "Is there anyone to help me?" while many did not. Some had tawfeeq, while some did not.

You see, some people have thousands and thousands of dollars, but that money gets spent and nothing really happens.

On the other hand, someone else may only have five dollars and use that money to buy everyone snacks. That way, everyone's happy, and those five dollars brought lots of blessing. That money has a special blessing.

Sometimes, you have a lot of money and health, but do nothing with it, and other times, you have very little money, but you do lots with it.

There's this one story told to us by our scholars. There were some children in London who were gathering pennies to build a masjid. They had a very pure niyyah to do good, so Allah gave them a special blessing. When they went to count their pennies, they came across one penny that was actually a rare penny. It turned out that this penny was worth one million pounds!! So, with that penny, they were able to build an entire masjid! You see, Allah gave them the *tawfeeq* to do this because of their pure intention.

Similarly, some people live to be 100 years old, and then they die, and everyone forgets about them. On the other hand, baby Ali Asghar was only six months old when he died in Karbala, but 1400 years later, we think about him, learn from him, remember him, and cry for him every single year!

This is because Allah has given him that *tawfeeq* and baraka, blessings. It is only through this *tawfeeq* that our actions are worth something.

Hurr also had tawfeeq on the day of Ashura. Remember, on the first day of Muharram, he was the one who had stopped Imam Husain (A) and forced him to stay in Karbala. On the eve of Ashura, he was walking back and forth, and he realized he made a mistake — that Imam Husain (A) was on the path of truth. It took a lot of courage to leave Yazid's army and come to the truth. That, my friends, is *tawfeeq* given by Allah. It's a special strength to make the right decision.

Allah says in the Quran in Surah Noor:

وَلَوْلَا فَضْلُ اللَّـهِ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَتُهُ مَا زَكَىٰ مِنكُم مِّنْ أَحَدٍ أَبَدًا وَلَٰكِنَّ

"Were it not for Allah's grace and His mercy upon you, not one of you would ever become pure." (24:21)

So, this *tawfeeq* is a special blessing that Allah grants someone to be able to do goodness. Are there ways for us to do something so that we can have more of this *tawfeeq* or blessing? What are some ways we can achieve this *tawfeeq*?

1. Thinking, reflecting and pondering:
Many of you know that one hour of thinking is better than 70 hours of worship. Maybe one of the reasons is that because when you think about what you learn, inshaAllah it goes into your heart, which then shows through your actions.

In another hadith, Imam Ali (A) says, "Whoever thinks about the history of human beings and the blessings of Allah, inshaAllah they can attain the special tawfeeq."

When we ponder about history, we learn from past mistakes. We learn that we only have a limited amount of time on this world, and we need to make the most of it. When we ponder about Allah's blessings, we learn to be thankful and use His blessings wisely for good choices. Thinking is very powerful; it is what makes human beings better than all other creatures.

2. Recitation of the Quran
Another way we can increase our *tawfeeq* is by reciting the Quran. The Prophet (S) has said that if someone recites ten ayahs of Quran at night, Allah will not forget them or consider them as those who are careless or forgetful. InshaAllah we will talk more about the importance of Quran in later nights, but know that the Quran will help us a lot in our lives.

3. Offering Salaah on Time
A third way to increase our *tawfeeq* is through Salaah. Salaah is an extremely important tool that we can use to make a connection with Allah. When you want to be friends with

someone, you have to go talk to them and see what they like, right? Well, if we want to connect with Allah, we have to talk to Him and build a relationship with Him.

Also, when you come to the masjid, Salaatul Jama'ah has a very special tawfeeq. Imam Musa al-Kadhim (A) has said, "Surely, praying Salaah in the first row is like doing jihad in the path of Allah." So, try to pray in jama'ah as much as you can, even if it is just one prayer. See how much *tawfeeq* there is in this. I know it might seem hard to pray on time sometimes, but there is a beautiful saying we should remember: Don't tell your Salaah that I have stuff to do, tell your stuff that I have Salaah to do!

4. Respect your Parents

Finally, respecting your parents is one of the greatest ways to increase your *tawfeeq*. Remember, we had a whole lecture on the importance of parents! One of the golden keys in life is being respectful and good to our parents.

In addition, we should be good to the rest of our family members. Just like we respect our parents, we should also respect and be kind to our other family members, and this also includes our siblings, grandparents, uncles, and aunts.

So, *tawfeeq* is a special blessing given to us by Allah. We can increase this *tawfeeq* by thinking, reciting Quran, offering Salaah on time and in Jama'ah, being good to our parents, and being good to our other family members. We pray that Allah increases for us all our *tawfeeq* to do good deeds.

Museebah:

اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ا بَا عَبْدِ اَللَّهِ

وَعَلَىٰ اَلا رْوَاحِ اَلَّتِي حَلَّتْ بِفِنَائِكَ

عَلَيْكَ مِنِّي سَلاَمُ اَللَّهِ ا بَداً

مَا بَقيتُ وَبَقِيَ اَللَّيْلُ وَاَلنَّهَارُ

وَلاَ جَعَلَهُ اَللَّهُ آخِرَ اَلْعَهْدِ مِنِّي لِزِيَارَتِكُمْ

اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَىٰ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ عَلِيِّ بْنِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ ا وْلاَدِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ ا صْحَابِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

Tonight, we want to remember John, one of the workers of the Prophet's (S) companion, Abu Dharr. Abu Dharr had given John to Imam Husain (A), and for years, John had served Imam Husain (A) loyally. In Karbala, John was there, too. He loved his Imam so much and knew there was nothing better than serving his Imam.

On the day of Ashura, John came up to Imam Husain (A) and said, "O' the grandson of Rasulullah, please give me permission to fight and give my life for you, O' my Imam!" But Imam Husain (A) didn't want him to feel like he *had* to help him; he wanted to give him the choice to be free.

He said, "O' John, your whole life, you have served me and the Ahlul Bayt. Now, you are free to go. Do whatever you wish to do. You do not have any responsibilities towards me."

John cried out, "O' grandson of Rasulullah! Leave you and go where? There is nothing better that I would want than to serve you. My master, even though I'm just a servant, I want to die fighting for you."

Imam Husain (A) gave him permission to go to the battlefield. Whenever someone went to battle, they announced who they were – their name and who their father was. But John was just a servant. Still, he proudly announced to everyone, "If you do not know who I am, I am the servant of Imam Husain (A), my master. Anyone who doesn't know me, I am the servant of the Ahlul Bayt."

He fought courageously. With every arrow that came at him, he felt proud to be protecting and serving the Imam. But alas, there were too many enemies. He finally fell and was taking his last breaths. All of a sudden, he saw Imam Husain (A) had come to him. Imam Husain (A) sat next to him and raised his hands to the sky. He prayed to Allah to give John a very high level in Jannah. Such an honor this man had! It didn't matter who he was and what he did; what mattered was that he had worked for Allah, and he did it with sincerity.

But on the day of Ashura, Imam Husain (A) fought thirsty and was martyred thirsty. One day, after the incident of Karbala, when Imam as-Sajjad (A) was walking down the street, he saw a butcher that was getting ready to slaughter an animal. Imam as-Sajjad (A) started crying and asked the man, "Did you give this animal some water?"

The butcher said, "Of course, O Imam (A)! A Muslim should first give water to the animal."

The Imam started crying harder and said, "But I saw with my own two eyes that they killed my father, Imam Husain (A), thirsty on the day of Ashura!"

Speech #3: Misbahul Huda (The Lantern of Guidance)

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
وَالْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلاةُ وَالسَّلامُ عَلى أَشْرَفِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ اَبِى الْقَاسِمِ مُحَمَّد
وَعَلى آلِهِ الطَّيِّبِينَ الطَّاهِرِينَ سِيَّمَا بَقِيَّةُ اللهِ فِى الْاَرَضِين

Lecture Objectives:

- Children will be introduced to the word guidance.
- Children will be introduced to ahadith that gives distinguished traits to our Imams and the guidance they provide to us.

Lecture Content:

There are many ahadith that help us understand how the Imams are here to guide us. One hadith states, "Certainly, Husain (A) is the light of guidance and the boat of salvation (he will help us make good choices)."

The day of Ashura was only one day and Imam Husain (A) battled with only a few soldiers for a few hours. But the blessing of this time was so great because his actions were so sincere for Allah that Allah (SWT) put a love and remembrance like no other for Imam Husain (A) in the hearts of the believers, and even the unbelievers. Allah (SWT) gave us this love because Imam Husain's (A) actions were purely for Allah's happiness; he connected himself with Allah (SWT). You can see through Imam Husain (A) what a connection with Allah (SWT) can do!

When Imam Husain (A) was born, he was brought to the Prophet (S), and as soon as he was placed in his arms, the Prophet (S) recited a dua , "O' my Lord, put in the hearts of people love and kindness towards Husain (A)." From this dua we can see how beloved and cherished Imam Husain (A) was from the very beginning.

Now, there are many, many lessons and reminders that we can take from Ashura, but maybe one of the most important is guidance. One of the reasons that the events of Karbala occurred was specifically because Imam Husain (A) was guiding people to the truth. Imam Husain (A) had even written a letter to the people of Basra in Iraq, which said, "The guidelines and actions of the Prophet (S) are not being followed. People have begun to create their own teachings, which have drifted away from our Prophet. If you wish to listen to my commands, I will guide you to the right path."

Therefore, one of the main reasons we remember Imam Husain (A) is due to his desire to guide people to the truth. All throughout his journey, we see that he kept trying to guide people and bring them to his side. Some listened, while others did not. As an Imam, he really wanted everyone to be guided, which is why even on the last day, after many of his companions and family members had been killed,our beloved Imam (A) called out, "Is there anyone to help me?

Even if someone had helped him, he still would have lost the physical battle (we all know

how he won the true battle: today, Imam Husain (A) and his message of truth is everywhere; his actions are remembered, and his grave is visited and blessed, while Yazid and the evil and falsehood he stood for are nowhere to be mentioned). However, at that difficult time, Imam Husain (A) was still giving those who were against him a chance to come to the right path. Indeed, we have such a kind Imam (A).

On the 6th day of Muharram, Imam Husain (A) met with the leader of Yazid's army, Umar Ibn Saad, his son Hafs, and his servant. Across from them sat Imam Husain (A), his brother Hadhrat Abbas, and his son, Ali Akbar.

Imam Husain (A) looked across at them as said, "O' Umar, remember Allah and do not participate in killing me."

Umar replied, "I know what you say is right, but what can I do? If I don't do this, I will have many problems when I go back"

Imam Husain asked, "What kind of problems?"

Umar said, "They will take away my house."

The Imam said, "I will give you a house."
Umar replied, "But they will take away my business and my farm, and then I won't have any more money."

Imam Husain (A) said, "I will give you a farm, I will give you the farmland and all the trees that go with it, that my father Imam Ali (A) planted with his own hands."

Umar answered, "Uh, well, my wife and children will lose safety if I don't do this."

The Imam replied, "I will promise you safety."

Umar began to notice that for every excuse he gave, Imam Husain (A) had a very good solution. So, he finally said, "Well, they have promised to make me the governor of Rey."

Imam Husain (A) replied, "Well, they will not make you the governor of Rey. Trust me, I know what they will do to you; Allah (SWT) has given me the knowledge, and this will not be the case."

Umar thought hard, as he knew who Imam Husain (A) was — they even used to play together as children. Umar knew that Imam Husain (A) was truly the Imam and spoke the truth. He thought hard for a moment and then said, "I know that it is haram to bother and cause pain to the Ahlul Bayt, but .."

You see, Umar still had his eye on the dunya, this world; all he cared about was what worldly

things he could gain from this battle. Yet, even on the 6th day of Muharram, Imam Husain (A) was trying his best to guide the leader of those who opposed him.

So, what is guidance? How does one know if they are on the path to Allah (SWT) and are truly guided? Today, we will discuss four signs that will help us understand if we are truly following our Imam (A) to the fullest.

The first sign of someone who is rightly guided is that they **have faith in Allah and remember Him**. Allah says in the Quran, "Indeed Allah will guide those who believe "(Surah Hajj, Ayah 54)." There are many ahadith that say anyone who takes one step towards Allah, Allah will help them and take ten steps towards them."

We have to remember that Allah (SWT) created us and knows what is best for us. He also loves us, which is why we say, "Rabbul A'lameen." He is our nurturer; He takes care of us. That's why if you take even a small step towards Him, He will help you stay on that path. We have to trust in Allah; after all, He is the Most Wise.

The second sign of someone who is rightly guided is that **whenever they make a mistake, they try to go back and make it right**. Allah says in the Quran, "He guides to Him those who turn to Him." (Surah ar-Rad, Ayah 27)

Let me give you an example. "Pretend you were on a road trip. Half way through your trip, you see a sign that clearly states that you need to go back or take another street. Would you continue going forward or would you follow the sign and try to find the right way?"

Of course you would go back! You would want to take the correct road because if you continued on the wrong road, you wouldn't make it to your destination. Just like that, whenever we make a mistake, we should go back and fix it. Our destination is Jannah, inshaAllah, so we want to make sure we stay on the path that takes us towards Jannah. And if we accidentally go off the path, we should find our way back. This is why Allah (SWT) has given us Tawbah - so that we can go back and fix our mistakes and receive His forgiveness. We are so blessed that Allah is so kind.

Do all of you remember the story of Hurr? Remember, Hurr was the soldier that kept Imam Husain (A) and his family from leaving Karbala. Imam Husain (A) gave water to Hurr's army, yet the army of Yazid kept water from Imam Husain (A) and his companions.

On the actual day of Ashura, Hurr kept going back and forth, back and forth. He kept seeing that on one side was Jahanam and on the other was Jannah. His son asked him, "What's wrong father?" Hurr looked at his son, and then immediately went to the other side to meet with Imam Husain (A).

As soon as he reached Imam Husain (A), Hurr fell to the feet of the Imam and said, "Please forgive me!"Imam Husain (A) immediately forgave Hurr and accepted his apology. This is our

Imam, so just imagine how kind Allah, our Lord, must be! Imam Husain (A) was showing us what Allah does for us, when we try to reach out for His forgiveness.

The third sign of someone who is rightly guided is that **they work hard.** ʃAllah says in the Quran, "And those who work hard in our path, indeed we will guide them." (Surah al-Ankaboot, Verse 69)

In life, we always have to work hard. If we want good grades, we have to study hard; if we want to buy stuff, we have to work hard to earn enough money. If we want to become doctors, we have to be good students and study for many hours. Even if we're hungry, we have to get up and make ourselves food! Just like that, we have to work hard to stay on the right path; we have to work on making sure that we follow the proper guidance that has been given to us. Some ways we can do this include learning, coming to the Masjid, trying to pray Salaah on time, being good to our parents, and trying to act on whatever we hear or see at the Masjid.

And finally, the last sign of someone who is rightly guided is that they ask the Imams to help guide them. Tawassul. When we attend these majaalis, we ask the Imam (A) to help us become better people by learning and making good choices. When we remember Imam Husain (A), we remember our beloved Imam Mahdi (AJ) and ask Allah to quicken his reappearance! He will be looking for good companions when he returns to help him make this world a beautiful and safe place. He will take away the hunger and the evil that happens in the world today. Our Imam will help us and guide us to become the best people! But we have to make sure that we're ready by following what the Imam has taught us that Allah wants us to do.

Museebah:

اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ا بَا عَبْدِ اَللَّهِ

وَعَلَىٰ اَلا رْوَاحِ اَلَّتِي حَلَّتْ بِفِنَائِكَ

عَلَيْكَ مِنِّي سَلاَمُ اَللَّهِ ا بَداً

مَا بَقيتُ وَبَقِيَ اَللَّيْلُ وَاَلنَّهَارُ

وَلاَ جَعَلَهُ اَللَّهُ آخِرَ اَلْعَهْدِ مِنِّي لِزِيَارَتِكُمْ

اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَىٰ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ عَلِيِّ بْنِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ ا وْلاَدِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ ا صْحَابِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

We see the mercy and guidance of Imam Husain (A) all over Karbala. Even on the day of Ashura, Imam Husain (A) stood in front of his enemies, asking if there was anyone to help him so he could save and guide more people to the right path.

One of these men on the other side, who started off on the wrong path and then came to the right path, was Hurr ibn Yazid ar-Riyahi. Hurr was continuously looking to make himself better, something we should always do as well. There is a verse in the Holy Quran found in Surah Tahrim (Verse 6) that tells us to stand up and protect ourselves from the Hellfire – Hurr did just this.

Hurr was the commander of the enemy's army and was ordered to stop Imam Husain (A) from going to Kufa. The army wouldn't let him return to Madina, nor would they let him go forward to Kufa. Instead, they made him stop in a place called Karbala. On that day, when Imam Husain (A) met the army of Hurr, he offered them water and even offered their horses water. Everyone was surprised!

His soldiers told him, "O' Master, Imam Husain (A), these are the enemies!"

But he replied, "No, we are Muslims, and we have to have the best of akhlaq."

Hurr, after seeing Imam Husain's great *akhlaq* over those few days was very confused on the day of Ashura. He was torn apart. There was a strong voice in him saying he was not doing the right thing, and that the right thing was to join Imam Husain (A). But how could he? He was the commander of the army! How would he be able to face everyone?

On the day of Ashura, Hurr was pacing back and forth, and his son asked him, "O' father, what are you doing?"

He said, "Oh my son! I see myself between Heaven and Hell, and I need to make the right decision."

Finally, he went towards Imam Husain's (A) army on his horse with a white flag showing he wanted peace. He got off the horse, put his head down and said, "O' the son of Zahra! Is there any space for you to forgive me? I'm so sorry!"

Imam Husain (A) took him into his arms and forgave him. He wanted to take him back to the tents, but Hurr said, "No, I can't face everyone! Please give me permission to fight first and die for you, O' my Imam!"

Imam Husain (A) gave Hurr permission to go into the battlefield and to become one of the first martyrs on the day of Ashura. After fighting bravely, he fell off his horse. When he suddenly opened his eyes, he saw his head was in the lap of Imam Husain (A)! The Imam (A) was wiping the blood from his face and looking down at him. How kind was this Imam that he not only guided and forgave him, but even took him into his arms and his head onto his lap! But on the day of Ashura, there was no one left to take Imam Husain's (A) head onto their lap, no one to wipe away his blood. The hadith says he placed his cheeks onto the earth as he was killed by the oppressors.

Speech #4: Akhlaq

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
وَالْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلاةُ وَالسَّلامُ عَلى أَشْرَفِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ اَبِى الْقَاسِمِ مُحَمَّد
وَعَلى آلِهِ الطَّيِّبِينَ الطَّاهِرِينَ سِيَّمَا بَقِيَّةُ اللهِ فِى الْاَرَضِين

Lecture Objectives:

- Children will learn about the importance of having good Akhlaq
- Children will learn what actions they can perform in order to have good Akhlaq

Lecture Content:

Alhamdulillah, we are really, really lucky. Actually, not lucky — let's say blessed — that we have the best religion in the world, Islam. Islam teaches us how to act in all areas of our life. It teaches us to be clean, how to eat food, how to be healthy, how to act with family and friends. Islam takes care of all parts of our lives because Allah gives us rules or, rather guidelines, to help us become better people and make better choices. Because remember, with these choices, we want to buy our ticket to where? Jannah inshaAllah.

So, Alhamdulillah, we thank Allah for this BIG blessing He's given us. He's given us Islam, the Prophet (S), the Quran, the Imams (A), and especially Imam Husain (A). Imam Husain (A) made the choice to give up everything to stand against evil. He knew that if he didn't stand up to Yazid and the bad things he was teaching about Islam, then one day, all of us sitting here wouldn't know what true Islam is. And because Imam Husain (A) loved us and he is our Imam and leader, he wanted us to know true Islam, so he made a choice.

So, Islam teaches us many different guidelines for all the different areas in our lives. One of the areas that Allah (SWT) talks to us about is how we should treat each other. For all of us sitting here, Islam has very good instructions on how to treat others.

The first thing Islam says is that we should have VERY good akhlaq with each other. When I say akhlaq, good behavior, and good character, I don't just mean smile at people and that's it. No, akhlaq includes many different things, such as being honest, doing the right thing, forgiving your friends, and covering up for them. For example, if your friend does something wrong, instead of announcing it to the world and saying, "He did it, he did it," you hide his mistake. Akhlaq also includes respecting elders, waiting in line, taking turns, and taking good care of things people leave with us. Akhlaq is very important if we want to show others about Islam.

Allah says to the Prophet of Islam, the one who came to guide us:

فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّـهِ لِنتَ لَهُمْ ۖ وَلَوْ كُنتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ

It is by Allah's mercy that you are gentle to them; had you been harsh and hardhearted, they would have surely scattered from around you. (3:159)

He tells the Prophet (S) that if you were harsh or rude, nobody would come to you.

People were attracted to the Holy Prophet (S) because he was SO nice and kind; it was because of his good character and akhlaq that so many people became Muslims.

The Prophet (S) was always seen with a smile on his face. When people would go talk to him and sit with him, they would feel so happy, and in fact, he was always the first to say salaam.

In fact, the Prophet (S) has said that if you want to be cheap, then don't say salaam to people. So, the first thing we should do when we come home from school is say Salaam Alaykum to our parents, because it's such an honor that we have been given the best word to greet each other with. Even in heaven, as people enter, the Angels will first say salaam to them and welcome them in.

فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّـهِ لِنتَ لَهُمْ ۖ وَلَوْ كُنتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ

It is by Allah's mercy that you are gentle to them; had you been harsh and hardhearted, they would have surely scattered from around you. (3:159)

Not only that, if someone greeted the Prophet (S) with *Salaam* or *Salaam Alaykum* first, he would respond with an even better reply, such as *Wa Alaykum Salaam Rehmatullah*. InshaAllah we can all greet each other with Salaam and with smiles on our faces.

Another example of good akhlaq is shaking hands with each other when we meet each other. This is something the Prophet (S) also used to do. Whenever he would meet a fellow believer, he would shake their hand gently, yet firmly, and say Salaamun Alaykum. It didn't matter if the person was old or young, rich or poor, he would greet everyone with a warm Salaam and handshake.

One of the reasons we do this is because shaking hands is a way to grow closer to each other and increase the love between us. Even after Salaatul Jama'ah, we shake hands and say "May Allah accept our salaat." This is something that creates unity and makes us stronger. Did you know that when you shake hands with each other, you get the thawaab of soldiers of Allah (SWT)?

There's a beautiful Hadith that says one day, the Prophet (S) saw Shaytaan, who was looking very weak, old, and sick.

The Prophet (S) asked him, "What happened to you that you look so weak like this?"

Shaytaan replied, "It's because of your followers!"

The Prophet (S) said, "What did my followers do?"

He said, "There are 6 things that whenever your followers do, I become weak and I cannot make them choose bad choices."

I won't share all six things today, just three of them.

1. When they see each other, what do you think they say? (*Wait for answers*) Good, they say salaamun alaikum!
2. And when they meet each other, how do you think they greet each other? (*Wait for answers*) Good, they greet each other with a warm handshake!
3. When they start something, what do you think they say? (*Wait for answers*) Good, they begin with Bismillahir Rahmaanir Raheem!

So, as you can see, Islam teaches us that it is very important for us to be good and have good akhlaq with one another, just like our Prophet (S) and Imams (A).

In fact, Akhlaq is so important that the Prophet (S) said, "I was sent as a Prophet (S) to teach everyone akhlaq." The whole message of the Prophet (S) was akhlaq. So, if you see Muslims frowning and being mean or rude, that's not the behavior of a Muslim. Muslims attract people with their personality and good akhlaq. Sometimes, people wouldn't even know the Imams were Imams because they didn't have Internet or Facebook where they could see pictures to know people. They had just heard of the Imams. So, they would meet them and not know who they were, but they would still want to be their friends just because of their good akhlaq!

Do you still need more proof about the importance of Akhlaq?

Sayyidah Fatimah (A) would say, "Someone who is good with others, their reward is Jannah. The best of you are those who are the nicest and most loving when you meet others."

Imam Jafar as-Sadiq (A) has said that a smile on your face is thawaab.

Your good Akhlaq will make people want to come closer to you, and not only that. Do you know what good akhlaq does to your sins? It burns away sins just like the sun melts ice. There's a beautiful Hadith that in one of the wars, there were some prisoners brought to the Prophet (S). He looked at one of them and said, "Free this man." The prisoner, who was an unbeliever, was so surprised and happy with the Prophet's decision!

He said to him, "O' Muhammad (not Rasulullah because remember, he was an unbeliever), out of all the prisoners, why did you free me specifically?"

The Prophet replied, "Because Angel Jibra'eel came to me and said that you have five characteristics that Allah and I love. For example, you have good akhlaq, speak the truth, and are brave."

When the man heard this, he immediately became Muslim and later became one of the Prophet's (S) greatest friends and helped in spreading Islam.

So, boys and girls, it's very important that the the Islam in our hearts shows itself in our

actions. It's not enough to just tell people that we are Muslims; we have to ***show*** them. We pray that Allah gives us the strength and *tawfeeq* to have good akhlaq in our hearts and show this good akhlaq in our actions, inshAllah.

Museebah:

اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ا بَا عَبْدِ اَللَّهِ
وَعَلَىٰ اَلا رْوَاحِ اَلَّتِي حَلَّتْ بِفِنَائِكَ
عَلَيْكَ مِنِّي سَلاَمُ اَللَّهِ ا بَداً
مَا بَقيتُ وَبَقِيَ اَللَّيْلُ وَاَلنَّهَارُ
وَلاَ جَعَلَهُ اَللَّهُ آخِرَ اَلْعَهْدِ مِنِّي لِزِيَارَتِكُمْ
اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَىٰ اَلْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَىٰ عَلِيِّ بْنِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَىٰ ا وْلاَدِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ
وَعَلَىٰ ا صْحَابِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

On the days leading up to Ashura, the enemies had surrounded the water, and they wouldn't let the family of Imam Husain (A) drink water, not even the children or women. Imam Husain (A) had been left all alone. Everyone had become shaheed, killed in the way of Allah. The only one left was a little baby named Ali Asghar, who was still in the tents. He was the 6 month old son of Imam Husain (A), and he had become very weak because he had not drunk milk or water in a few days.

Imam Husain (A) went to the tents and said, "Give me my young son, Ali Asghar." As he took him in his arms and looked at his little baby, he saw that his face had become yellow because of the thirst; his lips had become so dry, they felt like harsh wood. He kissed his son and took him towards the enemy.

He said to them, "If you have no mercy on me, have some mercy on this child. Give him some water."

Upon seeing this sad scene, the enemies were becoming sad.

When the evil Umar ibn Sa'ad saw this, he pointed toward Hurmala who had a very sharp arrow. He said, "Hurmala, our people are becoming soft; they might give Ali Asghar water."

So, Hurmala took out his sharp arrow and aimed right for little Ali Asghar. Ali Asghar was now ready to get water in Jannah. They say that he smiled, and Imam Husain (A) looked down at this baby. The 6 month old was now in Jannah with the Prophet (S)
Imam Husain (A) couldn't bring the baby back to the tents. How would his mother and aunts and little cousins feel? Imam Husain (A) took his sword and dug a little hole in the ground. He took the baby and put him in the hole and buried him. They say that the pain was so great that Allah himself gave more patience to Imam Husain (A) because of this great tragedy.

Speech #5: Responsibility

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
وَالْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلاةُ وَالسَّلامُ عَلَى أَشْرَفِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ اَبِى الْقَاسِمِ مُحَمَّد
وَعَلَى آلِهِ الطَّيِّبِينَ الطَّاهِرِينَ سِيَّمَا بَقِيَّةُ اللهِ فِى الْاَرَضِين

Lecture Objectives:

- Children will learn about responsibility
- Children will be introduced to an ayah that gives information on what responsibility means.

Lecture Content:

Allah (SWT) created everything in this world with a purpose, including us human beings. Everything we do has a purpose, or reason, behind it. Even when we go outside and play, we are doing so for a reason - to have fun! When we are hungry, we eat to fill our tummies. When we study, we do it because we want to learn something new and become smarter.

So, it makes sense that Allah (SWT) has created everything for a good reason; after all, He is the Most Wise. He has created us human beings to make good choices and become good people so that our good actions will help us get to Jannah! When Allah (SWT) created us, He also gave us specific guidelines and rules, kind of like instructions to follow. These will help us to reach this goal.

If you go out in the street and see people driving, they all have to follow the same guidelines. What happens if someone wants to go faster than they are supposed to? They can't because it is against the rules, and these rules keep everyone safe.

As human beings, we also have to live by certain rules, so that everyone can live safely. Not just to keep our bodies safe, but to also keep our souls healthy. When we do actions that go against the rules Allah has given us, like lie or cheat, they have a negative effect on the soul. This is why all of us should be responsible for our actions. The Quran specifically talks about four places where we should be responsible:

The first is our responsibility to Allah. We will talk about three specific ways that we can fulfill our responsibility to Allah. The first is knowing who Allah is, and we can do this by learning about some of His names and what they mean. Think about when your mom asks you to do something; you may not know why she wants you to do this, but you know what qualities your mom has. You know that she is kind and smart. And more importantly, you know that Mom knows best, so you trust that she is asking you to do this action because it is good for you.
Just like that, we have to learn about Allah's qualities so that we can get to know Him. So, let's discuss some of Allah's qualities. Allah is the Most Kind, the Most Generous, the Most Knowledgeable, and the Most Wise. When He asks us to do something, remember that He knows best and He loves us. This will make our hearts love and trust Him more and more.

Our second responsibility to Allah is to create a connection with Him. It's not enough just to know Allah. Imagine you have a favorite friend or teacher; you know who the person is and why they make you feel happy. However, can this person make you happy if you don't connect with them? This means you have to say hi, smile at them, be nice to them, or do something that will help you connect with that person. If not, that person will not know who you are. Just like that, we also have to connect with Allah.

Q: So what are some of the ways we can connect with Allah (SWT)?
(Allow students to give short answers)

There are many ways we can connect with Allah (SWT). One way we can talk to Allah is through praying Salaah and reciting Du'a. We can also read Quran and understand that is when Allah is speaking to us! That's why we should pay extra attention to our prayers and Quran, because it's such a special time for us to connect with Allah (SWT).

Our third responsibility to Allah is to follow the guidelines He has given us. If I gave you an origami project to do right now, would you be able to complete it by yourself if I didn't tell you what to do? If I just gave you origami paper and said to begin, your project probably wouldn't turn out the way it's supposed to. So, we have to wait for instructions, because if we just start folding the paper without knowing what we are doing, our project will be disastrous.

Just like that, if we want to be successful in reaching our goal and becoming good Muslims, we have to follow the guidelines that Allah has given us through our Prophet and Imams. That means we have to listen to Him, ask questions when we're confused, and follow those instructions He has given us. Today these instructions are given to us by our scholars.

Our second responsibility is to our Prophets, Imams, and scholars. They are here to guide us to the write path. Believing in Nabuwwah and Imaamah are our third and fourth Usool al-Deen.

On these nights, when we come to the Masjid during Muharram and learn about Imam Husain (A), in a way, we are fulfilling our responsibility to our Imams. We should learn about Imam Husain (A), his companions, and the events that happened, so that we can learn to follow in their path and make good choices. We have to gain the knowledge from someone as young as a six-month old baby to a man who was well into his nineties. Imam Husain (A) was responsible for all of them, and they all did what was asked of them!

Do any of you remember Qasim? Remember, he was only thirteen years old. When he wanted to join the fighting, he fell to Imam Husain's (A) feet, begging him for permission to fight.

You might ask why Qasim wanted to fight so badly when he didn't have to. The reason is

that Qasim felt responsible towards his Imam. He knew this was his responsibility.

Similarly, on the Day of Ashura, at the time of Dhuhr, the army of Imam Husain (A) stopped fighting so they could pray. However, the army kept attacking them, so some companions stood around the people praying to protect them. One of these men was Sa'eed, and he was struck by many arrows.

When Imam Husain (A) was done praying, he went over to Sa'eed and saw that he was near death! The Imam (A) asked, "Is there anything I may do for you?"

Saeed replied, "O' my Imam, can you please just answer one question? Was I loyal to you? Did I do a good job? Did I fulfill my responsibility to you? Are you happy with me?"

Imam Husain (A) responded to Saeed, "My dear companion, you have done everything correct!" As he was talking to him, Sa'eed asked the Imam not to wipe the blood from his face, because he wanted people to know on the Day of Qiyaamah that the on his face was for the love of Imam Husain (A).

This wasn't the only companion who had asked an Imam these exact questions. During the battle of Jamal, a man by the name of Zayd was also bleeding and near death. Just before he died, he asked the Imam of his time, Imam Ali (A) the same exact questions that Sa'eed had asked Imam Husain (A)! These companions understood the importance of upholding their responsibility to their Imam.

Finally, the last responsibility we will speak about is the responsibility to our own body parts: our hands, feet, ears, tongues, and eyes.

Allah says in the Quran, "Indeed, the ears, the eyes, and the heart will all be questioned." (17:36)

Ahadith tell us that our body parts will speak on the Day of Judgement and say things like, "I used to be so good; I was used to speak the good words of Allah. I used to be such good feet because I was used to walk into the masjid!"

InshAllah all of us make good choices and do such good things that our body parts will have only positive things to say about us on the Day of Judgment! We can make good choices with our body parts when we learn about our beautiful religion, Islam, and its guidelines. We have to remember to always use our body parts to do good things, so that we are fulfilling our responsibility towards them.

So, to review, we have many responsibilities. A few of them are to Allah, the Prophet (S), the Imams (A), and our body parts. May Allah (SWT) give us the strength and tawfiq to meet all our responsibilities and become closer to Him through this.

Museebah:

اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ا بَا عَبْدِ اَللَّهِ

وَعَلَىٰ اَلا رْوَاحِ اَلَّتِي حَلَّتْ بِفِنَائِكَ

عَلَيْكَ مِنِّي سَلاَمُ اَللَّهِ ا بَداً

مَا بَقيتُ وَبَقِيَ اَللَّيْلُ وَاَلنَّهَارُ

وَلاَ جَعَلَهُ اَللَّهُ آخِرَ اَلْعَهْدِ مِنِّي لِزِيَارَتِكُمْ

اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَىٰ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ عَلِيِّ بْنِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ ا وْلاَدِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ ا صْحَابِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

Tonight, we will remember one of Imam Hasan's (A) sons named Abdullah. Most of us know the story of Qasim, the brave son of Imam Hasan (A). Another one of his brave sons was Abdullah.

On the day of Ashura, after Imam Husain (A) had been badly injured and had fallen on the hot sands of Karbala, a little boy was in the tents, feeling very anxious and upset. He heard the cry of Imam Husain (A) and ran out of the tents. He was the ten year old son of Imam Hasan (A), Abdullah.

He saw that enemies had gathered around his uncle Imam Husain (A). The evil enemies were coming closer and closer to his uncle. They lifted their swords to strike the Imam. Abdullah could not watch any more! He pulled his hand from his aunt's, and ran towards his uncle shouting, "I swear by Allah I will not leave my uncle."

They say Abdullah threw himself on his uncle, and as the enemy brought down his sword, Abdullah defended his Imam with his own bare hands, dying in the arms of his uncle.

Speech #6: Salaah

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
وَالْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلاةُ وَالسَّلامُ عَلى أَشْرَفِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ اَبِى الْقَاسِمِ مُحَمَّد
وَعَلى آلِهِ الطَّيِّبِينَ الطَّاهِرِينَ سِيَّمَا بَقِيَّةُ اللهِ فِى الْاَرَضِين

Lecture Objectives:

- Children will learn about the importance of Salaah

Lecture Content:

Salaah, or prayer, is a very important part of Islam. In fact, it is the pillar of Islam. Do you see this building we're sitting in? It has walls and doorways that keep the roof from falling in. If these walls and pillars weren't here, the roof would collapse. Our ahadith tell us that *Salaah* is the pillar that keeps our *deen* from collapsing. Not just that, but *Salaah* is the key to *Jannah.* SubhanAllah, we have access to the highest level of *Jannah* through this beautiful key. The ayah of the Holy Quran tells us that *Salaah* helps people become strong to make good choices and keeps them from making bad choices.

Salaah is the way we talk to Allah (SWT). What an honor it is that we have the ability to talk to Allah! If you think of any important person — say the principal, the governor, or even the president — for all of them, you have to make an appointment to see them. And even then, they only have a little bit of time to give you; they can't stay with you the entire day. Now, imagine Allah, who created us, who is the Owner and the King of everything in this world. He invites us to talk to him. He says *"haya 'ala Salaah"* – "Run and come to prayer." What a great honor and blessing!

Salaah is the way we talk to Allah 5 times a day, and if someone truly remembers Allah 5 times a day, what kinds of choices do you think they'll make for themselves? They'll make good choices, of course!

One of the lessons Imam Husain (A) taught us was about the importance of *Salaah*. You see, the enemies wanted to battle him on the 9th of Muharram, but Imam Husain requested one night. He requested they delay the battle until the 10th of Muharram. Why? Was he scared? No, of course not! He gave the reason to his companions. He said, "*Inni uhibbu Salaah* - Indeed I love prayer. I want one more night so I can pray to Allah, so I can read Quran, and so I can spend one more night in this world talking to Allah." All the companions on the 9th of Muharram were so busy talking to Allah that their tent sounded like bees buzzing and humming to Him. That's why even on the night of Ashura, if we stay up and pray and talk to Allah (SWT), we get a lot of *thawaab,* reward. Some say it has the *thawaab* of 70 years of worship – imagine, 70 years of worship!

There's a beautiful saying from one of the scholars where he says, "When it's time for *Salaah*, run to *Salaah*." Imagine if you were busy doing something like washing the dishes or playing video games, and the phone rang. We usually run to pick it up! But when it's *adhan* time, sometimes we say, "Ah, we'll pray later when this TV show is over." But it is Allah calling us - let's run to pick up His call!

Like we said, *Salaah* is the key to jannah. The scholar used to say, "Don't say to *Salaah* I

have things to do. Tell the things you have to do that you have *Salaah* to do! Say that I have to go for a very important meeting – I have to talk to Allah (SWT)."

Even on the Day of Ashura, we see how much importance Imam Husain (A) gives to prayer. Because they started the battle very early in the morning, *dhuhr* time came right in the middle of the battle, and it was time to pray. So, in the middle of the war, the *adhan* was called. The enemies didn't stop to pray. But, Imam Husain (A) stopped. He didn't tell everyone to go into the tents and pray, no. Instead, he said, "We are going to pray a *jama'a* prayer, and there's a special kind of *jama'a* prayer to pray when we are in war."

Why did he do this? Through this action, he was teaching us many important things. Three of them are:

First, we have to pray on time. Allah is calling us. So, even in the middle of the battle, with enemies attacking, there's no time to wait. Imam Husain (A) said, "We will pray now, right on time."

Second, he showed us the importance of reading in a group, *jama'a*. Did you know that if there's more than 10 people reading *jama'a* prayer, the *thawaab* and reward is so much that the angels can't even count how much you get? Only Allah (SWT) can count it! Imam Husain (A) and his followers read this special type of *jama'a* prayer.

And third, he wanted to pray in front of everyone. He wanted to show everyone that a true Muslim is someone who upholds *Salaah*, that gives *Salaah* importance. *"Aqeemus Salaah"*. They are the people that uphold *Salaah*.

There's a beautiful story of a man who became a *shaheed* later, named Shaheed Babaei. He came to America from his country to learn how to be a pilot. When he came to America, he saw there were a lot of non-muslims living on campus, and they didn't understand Islam.

The first thing he did was he told the people he shared a room with that they can use all the area in the apartment, but to reserve a certain small section for him. In that area, he used to sit and pray and make sure his *Salaah* is done there. One day, his roommates went to the principal and said, "Principal, this Babaei guy is weird; he does this thing where he's bowing and going down in prostration, and sometimes, he does it in the middle of the night! We don't know if he's fit to be a pilot." The principal was a fair man and said that he would talk to him.

The next day, Babaei was called to the principal's office. When he got there, it was *Salaah* time, and the principal was a little late, so Babaei found the *qibla*, put some paper on the floor, and started praying. As he was praying, the principal came in. Imagine, he saw him doing exactly what his roommates had told him about!

As soon as Babaei finished, he got up right away and said, "Hello Principal, I'm so sorry to keep you waiting. You see, I'm a Muslim, and we believe that communication with God is very important. Muslims pray 5 times a day, and because it was time for prayer, I thought I would take a few minutes to pray on time while I was waiting."

The principal was so impressed with how much Babaei respected his religion and prayer that

he gave him a special recognition. You see, when we do things for Allah, Allah (SWT) takes care of us. He really guides us and helps us because He is Allah, and everything belongs to Him.

Salaah is so special. There's a beautiful hadith from the Prophet (PBUH) that says "*Salaah* makes your sins disappear and washes them away." Imagine a person that takes a bath in a river 5 times a day. Do you think he'll ever be dirty? Of course not! The Prophet said that praying is like washing your sins from yourselves 5 times a day.

He also says *Salaah* is like the light in your heart. When I become very good friends with Allah through *Salaah*, then I want to make choices that make Allah happy, and Allah will put in my heart the ability to do what's right.

There's another beautiful hadith that talks about how one day, the Prophet and his friends were sitting under a tree. The Prophet shook one of the branches, and some of the leaves fell off. The friends asked, "O' Rasulullah, why did you do that?"

He answered, "I wanted to show you something. Just like these leaves fell from the tree, when you stand and pray *Salaah*, your sins will fall just as easily."

This is why we have to give great importance to *Salaah*. We have to be careful not to be someone who neglects it. In fact, we have lots of ahadith that show how upset the Prophet would get if someone did not pay attention to *Salaah*. The Prophet has said, "The people who do not give importance to prayer, how can they truly be my friends?"

Praying on time has so much reward. I remember one time, someone asked me to imagine that I had a sand timer full of rubies and diamonds, and if I prayed on time, all the rubies would be for me, but the more I waited to pray, the more rubies and diamonds would slip down the timer. Which one would I choose? Of course, we would all choose to pray on time so we get more rubies! Just like that, Allah rewards us for praying on time, and Allah doesn't like it when we don't give importance to *Salaah*.

Other ways to give importance to *Salaah* include making *wudhu* to clean both your body and soul. Also, when you pray, it's very good to recite the *Adhaan* and *Iqaamah*. In fact, in your home, you should say the *Adhaan* loudly at the time of *Salaah*. The house that has the sound of *Adhaan* has many angels and blessings since everyone is being called to prayer in the house. Allah promises in so many *ayaat* of the Holy Quran that the one who gives *Salaah* importance will have many good things happen in his or her life.

So, remember, when we make Allah the most important thing in our life, Allah will take care of us. Allah is always taking care of us, but we have to let Him take care of us. It is just like the baby that doesn't understand it has to take medicine to get better, so it closes its mouth and some of the medicine falls. Its mother wants to give the medicine so it gets better, but the baby doesn't want it. Allah made us and wants us to have the best of this world and to get into *jannah,* but we also have to try hard and become as He wants us to be.

We pray that Allah gives us all the strength and tawfeeq to understand the importance of Salaah and to give it the attention it deserves. And we pray that he accepts our Salaah, and

through it, helps us to make good choices and become closer to Him.

Museebah:

اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ا بَا عَبْدِ اَللَّهِ

وَعَلَىٰ اَلا رْوَاحِ اَلَّتِي حَلَّتْ بِفِنَائِكَ

عَلَيْكَ مِنِّي سَلاَمُ اَللَّهِ ا بَداً

مَا بَقيتُ وَبَقِيَ اَللَّيْلُ وَاَلنَّهَارُ

وَلاَ جَعَلَهُ اَللَّهُ آخِرَ اَلْعَهْدِ مِنِّي لِزِيَارَتِكُمْ

اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَىٰ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ عَلِيِّ بْنِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ ا وْلاَدِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ ا صْحَابِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

One of the very difficult moments of Karbala was when one of Imam Husain's (A) sons, Ali Akbar, went into the battlefield. Ali Akbar looked very similar to the Prophet (S). When he would walk and talk, people would think he was the Prophet (S). Ali Akbar was very near and dear to Imam Husain (A). According to the hadith, it is said that the only time where Imam Husain (A)'s scream was heard, without control, in tears, and in cries, was when he was next to Ali Akbar's body.

Ali Akbar came to his father, Imam Husain (A), and he asked for permission to go into the battlefield. Imam Husain (A) immediately gave him permission. This was his son; this was his test. As he walked away to get on his horse and go, Imam Husain (A) looked at Ali Akbar with tearful eyes until he could see him no longer.

Ali Akbar bravely rode into the battlefield on his horse. For a second, the enemies thought it was the Prophet (S) coming towards them. Then, he cried out and announced himself, "I am the son of Husain (A), the son of Ali!"

He was strong and fought bravely. But of course, the enemies were large in number, and he was only one.

All of a sudden, Imam Husain (A) heard a voice. The voice was his son calling his father. As Imam Husain (A) charged toward Ali Akbar, the enemies cowardly ran away. Some say that some of them laughed as they saw Imam Husain (A)'s pain. Imam Husain (A) fell to the ground and put his cheek next to the cheek of his son. He said, "O' my son, you have left your Baba all by himself."

At this time, it is said that Imam Husain (A)'s pain was so great that Zaynab had to do something or else it was as if his soul would have left his body. When Imam Husain (A) saw Sayyidah Zaynab, he got up. He knew he had a responsibility towards his sister. She came towards him and threw herself on Ali Akbar.

"Indeed you have rested, Ali Akbar, my dear, from this world and its sadness. Your father is left alone. O' the love of my brother!" she said as she cried tears of sorrow.

Speech #7: Ziyaarah

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
وَالْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى أَشْرَفِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ اَبِى الْقَاسِمِ مُحَمَّد
وَعَلَى آلِهِ الطَّيِّبِينَ الطَّاهِرِينَ سِيَّمَا بَقِيَّةُ اللهِ فِى الْاَرَضِين

Lecture Objectives:

- Children will be introduced to the importance of loving, following, and visiting the graves of the Ahlul Bayt
- Children will specifically understand the importance of visiting the grave of Imam Husain (A).

Lecture Content:

In the Quran, Allah says in Surah Shuraa, Verse 23:

قُل لَّا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ أَجْرًا إِلَّا الْمَوَدَّةَ فِي الْقُرْبَى

Say, 'I do not ask you any reward for it except the love of [my] relatives.' (42:23)

The Prophet (S) spent most of his life helping and serving everyone. For 23 years, He spent day and night spreading the message of Allah, despite facing many difficulties. He had food thrown at his face, unkind words spoken about him, and many other difficulties. However, he did all of this to provide us with the best religion in the world. He came and taught us the manners and ways of life that we need to go to jannah, and he brought us light through the Holy Quran.

Now, this is a man who was so patient that his patience was unmatched by anyone else. Even Prophet Musa (A) asked Allah for patience to deal with the evil rulings of the Pharaoh. However, the Prophet (S) did not even have to ask for that, because his mission was so difficult that Allah automatically granted him this patience without him asking. Allah mentions in the Quran that He has given the Prophet (S) all the patience:

أَلَمْ نَشْرَحْ لَكَ صَدْرَكَ

Have we not expand your breast for you? (94:1)

Meaning that Allah expanded his capacity to bear difficulties.

Meaning that Allah expanded his capacity to bear difficulties.

So, the Prophet (S) went through all these difficulties to deliver this message to us, but what did he ask for in return? As we mentioned in the beginning, Allah told the Prophet (S) to only ask for us to love his blessed family, the Ahlul Bayt. The Prophet (S) spread the message of Allah and guided us without any intention of receiving anything for himself; he only wanted for us to understand the importance of our Imams and love and respect them. He wanted us to realize that they are guides for us. He didn't want us to just say that we love them; he wanted us to ***show*** them that we love them.

Q: How can we show them that we love them?

(You can allow kids to give short answers)

We can show the Imams that we love them through our actions. If we love the Ahlul Bayt

(A), this should be clear in our actions. This means that our behavior and our akhlaq towards others should be the best, because we are following the good akhlaq taught to us by the Imams (A).

Now, the Imams are not here with us today, but Imam as-Sadiq (A) has said that, "Anyone who comes to visit us (for ziyaarah) after we have died, it is as if they have visited us while we are alive."

You see, we are made up of a body and a soul. The body might die, but the soul lives on. Therefore, even though the Imams are not physically here in front of us, they can still see what is happening around us! So that's why even when they are not here, we can still ask them to help us. We can still do our best to be like them!

There are so many ahadith that talk about the importance of ziyaarah. The Prophet (S) himself said that, "One visit to the Imams is like one year of ibaadah." Also, if a person does this before they die, and there is love in their hearts for their Imams, they will surely go to jannah.

Another hadith states that, "Those with the most light around them on the day of judgement are those who showed the most love for the Prophet (S) and his family." Therefore, visiting the Ahlul Bayt (A) is very important, to the extent that the Prophet (S) himself has said, "Those who visit me for ziyaarah, I, myself, will ask Allah to help them and get them into Jannah."

Now, Ziyaarah isn't just about visiting their graves; it requires us to show them love at all times. And this love is found in our actions; our love is fully shown when we act in the ways that they have taught us. A simple way of showing the Imams love is by celebrating their milads (celebrations), mourning on their shahadahs (death anniversaries), and holding majaalis to show our love on their birthdays or deaths. Additionally, it is very important to go to the masjid on these days, in order for us to learn about them and pay our respects.

Although it is recommended to perform Ziyaarah of all the Imams, the ahadith state that there is a special importance in going to the masjid or attending gatherings in honor of Imam Husain (A) in the month of Muharram. This is because by showing our love and shedding tears for Imam Husain (A), we slowly become closer to him and our actions can inshaAllah change to bring him closer to us!

Imam ar-Ridha (A) has said that during the first 10 days of Muharram, his father, Imam al-Kadhim (A)would not be found smiling. It was as if a great sadness would overcome him, and on the 10th day, he would be recalling Imam Husain's (A) shahaadah.
To this day, people will still recount the events of Karbala in their homes and at the masjid, and every year more and more people do so. During the days of Arbaeen, 40 days after the death of Imam Husain (A), almost 20-25 million people go on a three-day journey, walking from Najaf to Karbala, just to show their love and admiration for Imam Husain (A).

One man narrates that one day he came across the sixth Imam, Imam as-Sadiq (A), who was in sajdah praying, "O' Allah, if they have spent money to come to Karbala, give them money, or if they have had hardship, please give them ease; O' Allah, if they have come to visit Imam Husain (A), please give them anything they ask for."

When the Imam finished his du'a, the man asked, "O' my Imam, who were you praying for?" The Imam answered, "I am praying for those who are visiting the haram of Imam Husain (A) in Karbala"

The man was astounded, and said, "O' my Imam, you asked for so much thawaab for them?!"

The Imam looked at him and said, "Do you know that the Angels in the heavens pray for those people who visit Imam Husain (A)? Would you like to shake hands with an Angel, whose noor and light would become part of you?"

The man eagerly replied, "O' yes, my Imam."

The Imam then replied, "Then, perform the ziyaarah of my grandfather Imam Husain (A)." Additionally, Imam Ridha (A) has said, "Whoever visits the grave of Aba Abdullah is like someone who has visited Allah (SWT). This is because Imam Husain (A) died spreading the truth and teachings of Allah."

Now, there are so many stories to tell you about the love of Imam Husain (A), but let's listen to this one!

One day, the tenth Imam, Imam al-Hadi (A) fell sick, so he sent people to Karbala to visit Imam Husain (A). People were confused why the Imam was doing this, so they asked, "O' Imam al-Hadi (A), why have you sent people to visit Imam Husain (A) while you are an Imam?"

Imam Hadi (A) responded, "This is because underneath the dome of Imam Husain (A), any dua is accepted and by the special trip to Karbala, any sickness is healed (of course Allah knows what is best for us)!."

So, you see, Allah has blessed us by giving us the love of Imam Husain (A) in our hearts in this blessed month of Muharram. We are so blessed that we are sitting here tonight learning about Imam Husain (A), Alhamdulillah! We also have to remember and pray for our parents, who have helped us grow this love that we have by bringing us to the masjid where we can love and cry for our beloved Imam and his family. This love for Imam Husain (A) is special because it will help us learn how to make good choices and become closer to Allah (SWT). These tears will help us get closer to Allah (SWT) and Imam Husain (A) and inshaAllah give us the strength to make good choices — choices that will make Imam Husain (A) proud, inshaAllah!

So, let's remember our Imams are very kind and generous; if we sit here and remember them, don't you think they will help us? They will put courage and love in our hearts; they will help us be kind to our parents, our friends, and our teachers. Their love will help us become close to Allah (SWT).

Museebah:

اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ا بَا عَبْدِ اَللَّهِ

وَعَلَىٰ اَلا رْوَاحِ اَلَّتِي حَلَّتْ بِفِنَائِكَ

عَلَيْكَ مِنِّي سَلاَمُ اَللَّهِ ا بَداً

مَا بَقيتُ وَبَقِيَ اَللَّيْلُ وَاَلنَّهَارُ

وَلاَ جَعَلَهُ اَللَّهُ آخِرَ اَلْعَهْدِ مِنِّي لِزِيَارَتِكُمْ

اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَىٰ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ عَلِيِّ بْنِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ ا وْلاَدِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ ا صْحَابِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

Qasim was the son of Imam Hasan (A). Imam Hasan (A) died when Qasim was only 2 or 3 years old, so Imam Husain (A) had raised Qasim and was like a father to him. On the day of Ashura, when Imam Husain's own son, Ali Akbar, came and asked for permission to fight, Imam Husain (A) gave it to him right away. But when Imam Hasan's son Qasim came, he could not bring himself to give permission to his 13 year old nephew to go into the battlefield. Qasim was an *amana*, a trust from Imam Hasan (A), who had told Imam Husain (A) to take care of him.

He took Qasim into his arms and they started crying. Qasim took Imam Husain's (A) hands and kissed them. He kissed his uncle's feet. He kept kissing and kissing so he could get permission to fight in Karbala. But how could Imam Husain (A) give him permission to get killed? They hugged and cried so much that they almost became unconscious. Qasim insisted, but Imam Husain (A) would not budge, so he went to his mother, Umm Farwa.

When he told his mother what was happening, Umm Farwa pulled out a letter and said, "O' Qasim! Your father had kept this for such a day. Take this to your uncle and give it to him." In the letter, Imam Hasan (A) had written to Imam Husain (A) to allow his son to defend *Imaamah* and the Imam of the time, Imam Husain (A), and fight bravely.
When Imam Husain (A) saw his brothers' letter, he kissed it and started crying. He asked Qasim what he thinks about *shahada* – about dying in the path of Allah. Qasim answered, "It is sweeter than honey to me."

Finally, Imam Husain (A) gave him permission. Qasim, this young boy, went bravely into war. He was so young that he wasn't able to find any clothes for war that would fit him. Instead, he wore big army clothes. It did not matter to Qasim. What mattered was that he loved his Imam and wanted to fight for the truth.

He started reciting a beautiful poem: "If you don't know me, I am the son of Hasan; I am the grandson of the Prophet of Allah. Do you know this is Imam Husain (A) that you're treating like this and that you have made like a prisoner!"

He fought bravely, but alas, he was a young boy and there were so many enemies surrounding him. He fell on the ground and called to his uncle, "O' uncle!"

Imam Husain (A) charged towards where Qasim was. He finally got rid of the enemies and went to Qasim. He stood next to his head. He said, "O' the love of my brother! My dear brother's son! It is so hard for me that you called me, but I cannot do anything for you." He picked up Qasim and put him to his chest as the young brave soldier took his last breaths.

Speech #8: Sacrifice

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
وَالْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلاةُ وَالسَّلامُ عَلى أَشْرَفِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ اَبِى الْقَاسِمِ مُحَمَّد
وَعَلى آلِهِ الطَّيِّبِينَ الطَّاهِرِينَ سِيَّمَا بَقِيَّةُ اللهِ فِى الْاَرَضِين

Lecture Objectives:

- Children will learn about the importance of being sacrificing, and how this was prevalent in the lives of the Prophet (S) and Imams (A).

Lecture Content:

Allah (swt) has created us in communities. We have families, groups of friends, a community in the masjid, and a school. In most of our lives, we live or spend time with other people, and therefore, we have to live in a way that Allah (swt) would be pleased with. We must live according to the guidelines Allah has given us; after all, He created us and knows what's best for us.

One of the things we should pay attention to when we are living together is having a sacrificial character and making sacrifices. What is sacrifice? It's how generous a person is with giving away what is theirs. When we give someone something generously without having expectations for getting something back in return and we do it purely to make Allah happy, this can be a type of sacrifice. The opposite of being sacrificing is being stingy or cheap, and we have to be careful about being stingy. There is a hadith that says that there is nothing in Jannah for someone who is stingy. Our Prophet (S) and Imams (A) lived their lives with this characteristic of being sacrificing.

But why is sacrifice important? We have a hadith from Imam Ali (A) that the best of *ibaadah* and worship is sacrifice. He also says that the best of good deeds is sacrificing for others. One hadith even says that your akhlaq and manners cannot be complete until you sacrifice. Imam as-Sadiq (A) has said that a complete *mo'min* (believer) is someone who does good for other people even when they are in trouble and difficulties. Imam al-Baqir (A) has said that there will be 3 kinds of people in Allah's special *jannah*; one of those people is the one who gives more importance to others than themselves. Now, remember, you have to be intelligent; you can't give everything you have before making sure you are doing okay. But we should still practice being sacrificing, especially at school, at the masjid, and at home.

There are two different types of sacrifice: giving from what you have and giving your life. Let's look at the first type of sacrifice. Sometimes, we sacrifice something that belongs to us – it can be money, a position, or food. We do it not to make ourselves look good or for other people to think we're great people, but we do it to please Allah (swt).
One story showing this kind of sacrifice is about Imam Ali (A) when he was the khalifa, the ruler. One day, he and his servant Qambar went to the bazaar, and Imam Ali (A) bought 2 shirts. One was expensive and very beautiful, and the other was simpler. The Imam took the nicer shirt and gifted it to Qambar. Qambar said, "O' my Imam, my khalifa! How can I take something nicer and you take the simple one? You're my king; you're my Imam!" Imam Ali (A) smiled and said, "Qambar, you're a young boy; I want you to look nice and dress properly!"

What we give to others doesn't always have to be money. One day, the Prophet (S) was in the desert, and he picked up two sticks that would make good canes to walk with. One was nicer and sturdier, much better than the other one. When the Prophet (S) came back, he gave the nice one to one of his companions.

The companion said, "O' Rasulullah, you take the nicer one and give me that one."

The Prophet (S) did not accept, showing his akhlaq of being giving and sacrificing. He kept the not-so-nice stick and gave the companion the better one.

Sometimes, we see people give food. You all know the story of when Imam Hasan (A) and Imam Husain (A) were kids and got really sick. Imam Ali (A) and Sayyidah Fatimah (A) made a promise that if they get better, they will fast for 3 days. So, when they got better, the whole family fasted.

The first day, they didn't have much to eat, just some yummy bread. The kids smelled the bread Sayyidah Fatimah (A) was baking, and all of a sudden, just before iftar time, a beggar came and asked for food. They gave him the bread, and broke their fast with water and went to sleep.

The next day, they also fasted. As they were about to open their fast, someone else knocked. This time, it was an orphan who asked for some food. Again, they gave their bread and opened their fast with water.

The third day, they were about to break their fast, and yes, again someone knocked. It was a prisoner who had recently been freed, and he asked for some food. The Ahlul Bayt gave him their food for the third day in a row. Allah (swt) was so happy with the Ahlul Bayt that he revealed an ayah for them:

وَيُطْعِمُونَ الطَّعَامَ عَلَىٰ حُبِّهِ مِسْكِينًا وَيَتِيمًا وَأَسِيرًا ﴿٨﴾ إِنَّمَا نُطْعِمُكُمْ لِوَجْهِ اللَّـهِ لَا نُرِيدُ مِنكُمْ جَزَاءً وَلَا شُكُورًا ﴿٩﴾

For the love of Him, they feed the needy, the orphan and the prisoner, [saying,] 'We feed you only for the sake of Allah. We desire no reward from you, nor thanks. (76:8-9)

Allah says that they gave their food to a poor person, an orphan, and a prisoner, and they did so just to please Allah; they did not want anything in return.

As you can see, there are many things we can sacrifice for others; it doesn't always have to be money. Maybe you're in class and you see someone wants to sit in your desk; you can give it to them. Maybe you're in line to buy a snack, and you see someone's in a hurry, and you let them cut in front of you. Maybe you're going on a trip, and you give the nicer seat in the car to your sibling. Maybe you share your toys and books with your friends. Even simple things like helping your teacher in class or your mom and dad at home count. These are all types of sacrifice.

Our Prophet (S) and Ahlul Bayt lived their lives with this beautiful trait of sacrifice. There are so many stories in their lives.

When the Prophet (S) migrated from Makkah to Medina, a lot of people left from Makkah in

a hurry because the unbelievers were torturing them, and they couldn't bring anything with them. Imagine if you had to leave in a hurry and couldn't bring anything, just like what is happening in places like Iraq and Syria to so many families now. So, what did the Prophet do? He took one person from Makkah and made them brothers with one of the people in Medina, called the Ansaar. The people of Medina would take the people of Makkah into their homes and treat them like their brothers. Some of the people in Medina were so poor, yet they would still give whatever the Makkans needed because they knew that these people just sacrificed all they had for Islam by coming to Medina.

The first type of sacrifice was giving things, and the second kind of sacrifice is giving your life. An example of this type of sacrifice is also seen during the Prophet's (S) journey to Medina. On the night where the Prophet (S) was going to leave Makkah for Medina, all of the unbelievers had decided that one person from each tribe in Makkah, around 40 people, would come together and kill the Prophet (S). They wanted to do this because if they all killed him, the family of the Prophet wouldn't be able to take revenge on all of them, since that would mean killing the whole city of Makkah!

At night time, these 40 people waited around the house of the Prophet (S). Allah ordered the Prophet to leave that night, but he couldn't just leave his bed because the unbelievers would see that the bed is empty. So, he asked Imam Ali (A) if he would sleep in the bed. Imam Ali (A) only asked one question. He asked, "O' Prophet of Allah (S), if I do this, will your life be saved?" The Prophet (S) said yes. So, Imam Ali (A) said, "Of course I'll do this." See how sacrificing Imam Ali (A) was!

By the power of Allah, the Prophet (S) read the ayah:

وَجَعَلْنَا مِن بَيْنِ أَيْدِيهِمْ سَدًّا وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ سَدًّا فَأَغْشَيْنَاهُمْ فَهُمْ لَا يُبْصِرُونَ

And We have put a barrier before them and a barrier behind them, then We have blind-folded them, so they do not see. (36:9)

Allah put a cover on the eyes of the unbelievers while the Prophet (S) slipped away for Medina. That night, Imam Ali (A) had the blankets over his face, and he said he slept like a baby! In the middle of the night, the enemies came into the house and pulled off the blanket. They were about to strike, but they saw it was Imam Ali! The unbelievers said, "Where is the Prophet (S)?!" Imam Ali (A) said, "Did you give him to me that you're asking me where he is?" Even more angry, the unbelievers left. In this instance, Imam Ali (A) was very, very sacrificing. Islam and protecting the Prophet (S) were so much more important, and he was willing to give his life for that.

Maybe the best examples of sacrifice we can see are on the day of Ashura in Karbala. Imam Husain (A) and his companions made the greatest sacrifice: they gave their lives to protect Islam. In fact, on the night of Ashura, Imam Husain (A) turned out the lantern and told his followers that they can leave, and that on the Day of Judgment, no one will get upset with them.

"They want to kill me, not you," he told them.

One of the companions said, "O' Husain (A), if they killed us a thousand times and they chopped us up, we would still come back a thousand times to fight for you!" They were so sacrificing.

Museebah:

اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ا بَا عَبْدِ اَللَّهِ

وَعَلَىٰ اَلا رْوَاحِ اَلَّتِي حَلَّتْ بِفِنَائِكَ

عَلَيْكَ مِنِّي سَلاَمُ اَللَّهِ ا بَداً

مَا بَقيتُ وَبَقِيَ اَللَّيْلُ وَاَلنَّهَارُ

وَلاَ جَعَلَهُ اَللَّهُ آخِرَ اَلْعَهْدِ مِنِّي لِزِيَارَتِكُمْ

اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَىٰ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ عَلِيِّ بْنِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ ا وْلاَدِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ ا صْحَابِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

One of the men that was extremely sacrificing was Hadhrat Abbas, Imam Husain's (A) brother. He was the flagbearer, so he couldn't fight during the whole war because he had to hold the flag to show they hadn't been defeated. Everyone else went to fight, but Hadhrat Abbas didn't.

Finally, Sayyidah Sakina, Imam Husain's (A) daughter, was asking for water. Hadhrat Abbas turned to his brother said, "O' Imam, please give me permission to get water."

Imam Husain (A) said, "Okay, but only to get water, and I am going to go with you." As they headed towards the river, they were each reading lines of poetry so the other could hear that the other brother is okay and alive. One would say, "I am the son of Haider al-Karraar," and the other would say, "I am the son of Fatimah az-Zahra (A)."

So, they went into the battlefield, each of them reading one line of the poem, so they could know where the other one was. Hadhrat Abbas broke through the enemies and got to the water. Remember, he hadn't drunk water and was also very thirsty. He took some water in his bag and put some in his hands, and even though he could have drank it, he didn't. He dropped the water and said, "No! How can I, when my brother, my Imam is thirsty?!"

He headed back to the tents, but the enemies were cruel. They surrounded him and shot him with arrows. One of the three-headed arrows went into his eyes. But it didn't matter, he held onto the water tightly. One of the enemies cut off his hand, but it didn't matter, as long as the water was safe and went to the kids. He put the water bag in his other hand. But then, one of the enemies cut off his other hand. Still, it was okay; he clutched the water bag between his teeth. But then, all of his hope died when they shot an arrow in the waterbag and all the water spilled out. Someone hit him and he fell on the ground.

He called out, "O' my brother Husain, come!" This was the first time he called him brother; he would always call him Imam.

Imam Husain (A) came charging. He put Hadhrat Abbas's head on his lap; he wiped the blood from his eyes. You know what Hadhrat Abbas said? Even at this moment on his deathbed, he was so sacrificing. He said, "O' Husain, who is going to take you in their lap when you fall from your horse? No one is left."

Allah says in the Quran that those people who sacrifice their lives for Allah – don't think they are dead. No, they are alive with Allah.

Speech #9: Bravery

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
وَالْحَمْدُ لِلّٰه رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلاةُ وَالسَّلامُ عَلى أَشْرَفِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ اَبِى الْقَاسِمِ مُحَمَّد
وَعَلى آلِهِ الطَّيِّبِينَ الطَّاهِرِينَ سِيَّمَا بَقِيَّةُ اللهِ فِى الْاَرَضِين

Lecture Objectives:

- Children will learn about the true definition of bravery
- Children will learn about the signs of a brave person, as narrated through ahadith

Lecture Content:

Many times, when we think about bravery, we tend to think about fighting and winning. We think of such people who are heroes in the fictional sense, like batman, superman, and we also see bravery as heroes in war or people who conquer the war.
However, bravery means so much more than winning a physical battle! To be brave is to have the quality that allows you to do something that many would not normally be able to do.
Let me explain. Allah has created all humans with three powers within us:

The power of intellect: This helps us to make good decisions, such as whether we should pick this or that, say something or not. This gives us the ability to make a choice based on our intellect.

The desire or power to want something: this is the ability to push limits because we feel we must have something.

The ability to feel anger: we get frustrated because we don't get what we want, so we go through this stage of anger.

Being able to control one's desire and anger and letting the intellect be in charge is a type of bravery, maybe even the strongest type of bravery.
So, now we have a new definition of bravery. It's not only fighting and winning that make someone brave. There are many different ways that we can be considered brave. Tonight, we will discuss four different signs of a brave person, as told to us through ahadith.

The first sign of a brave person is that they tell the truth.

Many ahadith say that speaking the truth is a form of bravery.
There are many examples in our history that show this kind of bravery. One such example is Imam Ali (A). When he was the Khalifah, he was very well loved, and everyone who knew him and knew of him loved and respected him. However, when he died, the evil khalifah Muawiya used to teach the people that they should hate Imam Ali (A). He would call the Imam by bad names and even curse him, Astaghfirullah.

Even Ibn Ziyad, Muawiya's khalifah in Kufa also tried to spread false rumors about Imam Ali (A) and say bad things; however, nobody would listen to or repeat any of the bad things that he was saying about the Imam. Everyone in Kufa knew of the kindness of Imam Ali (A). Stories

of his goodness were very popular in Kufa.

For example, there was a poor man who was looking for something to eat, so he wandered into the Masjid. There was an old man in the Masjid who was about to eat, so he asked this man if he would like to join him.

However, the poor man noticed that the old man only had some hard bread and salt to eat, so he said no. He then walked outside and came upon two men, who happened to be Imam Hasan (A) and Imam Husain (A); he asked them if they had some food to spare, and they said yes.

They took the man to their home and gave him a wonderful meal. As the man finished up his meal, he asked Imam Hasan (A) and Imam Husain (A) if he could take some food for the old man in the Masjid who only had hard bread and some salt to eat.

Imam Hasan (A) and Imam Husain's (A) eyes began to fill with tears as they explained to the man that the man in the masjid was their father, Imam Ali (A) the Khalifa. They told him that everything was owned by his father and he was the governor! The man couldn't believe it, so Imam Hasan (A) and Imam Husain (A) explained to the man how their father was kind and humble and did not eat fancy meals because he wanted to take care of all of the poor people.

Despite his kindness, though, Ibn Ziyad would still curse Imam Ali (A). But we know that if we see someone is being wronged, we have to stand up and do what is best. And that is exactly what an old blind man named Abdullah ibn Afeef did. After hearing all the bad words and false rumors Ibn Ziyad was spreading about Imam Ali (A), he stood up and told him, "You are lying! That is not who Imam Ali (A) was!"

Ibn Ziyad fired back and said, "I am going to kill you for what you said!"

Abdullah ibn Afeef smiled widely and became very happy. He said, "Ever since I became blind, I never thought I would get the chance to become Shaheed. But Alhamdulillah, I get to die for a good cause!"

This is an example of bravery. By standing up and speaking the truth, Abdullah ibn Afeef displayed one of the signs of bravery.

Even today, we hear people saying bad things about Muslims! This doesn't mean you need to fight these people, but it's a good chance for you to clear up their misconceptions and help them understand how kind and wonderful Muslims really are.

You can do this in many ways — like writing stories and poems — to show people how wonderful our religion is! If we want to learn bravery from Imam Husain (A), we have to understand that it's not just fighting physically; it's standing up for the truth! We have to show others that our religion is a religion of truth from Allah!

2. The second sign of a brave person is that they are strong and are able to make good choices, even when they are tempted by bad things.

All of us know what it feels like when we hear those little voices in our heads. One side is saying to do something bad and the other is saying not to. According to our hadith, brave people are those who can listen to the good voice. This voice is actually a special guide Allah has put in all of us. When we listen to this guide, it becomes stronger, but when we don't listen to it, it gets weaker. Doing different kinds of good actions like helping our parents, offering salaah, and cleaning the Masjid also help this guide become stronger.

Let me give you an example. Sometimes, when we are having fun with our friends, someone might suggest to do something that sounds fun, but we know is not good. There are many examples such as playing a joke on someone, going to a place in the masjid you are not allowed, or not listening to your parents or adults. In this situation, a brave person is someone who can say no to the bad choice and pick the good choice.

Or, for example, maybe you are at school and you have good friends. However, one day, they decide to do something haraam like listen to haraam music or say bad words or maybe eat something that is not halaal. At this point, ask yourself, are you brave? Are you willing to listen to Allah? Can you stand strong and say no? If you are able to say no, then know that you are being extremely brave.

On the day of Ashura, one of the enemies who was related to Hadhrat Abbas said to him, "Why don't you leave Imam Husain's (A) army and we will make sure to protect you!" Hadhrat Abbas was very upset when he heard this! He knew the best choice was to be on the side of truth and his Imam, so he was brave and made the right decision.

3. The third sign of a brave person is that they speak nicely, even when angry.

When a person becomes angry, it is very difficult for them to control their tongue. However, a truly brave person is someone who can control their actions and words even when they are very angry.

Now, this one is especially hard for some of us, because when we get mad, we sometimes have a hard time thinking straight. It is very difficult for us to think about the situation and look past what made us angry. Someone who is brave, though, is able to use their emotions to help the other person, and at the same time they are helping themselves, by using their bravery to stay away from haram acts.

We have to always remember that the tests given to us are meant to help us improve ourselves and become brave like Imam Husain (A)!

4. The fourth trait of a brave person is that they act fairly when given power and responsibility.

Someone who is a truly brave person always acts fairly, even when they are given power. You

see, sometimes, we might be chosen to be in charge of something, like the class helper or the captain of a team in PE. Or maybe you are just older than the other kids you hang out with. Whatever the case, our ahadith and teachings from the beloved Ahlul Bayt tell us that someone who is brave acts fairly when they are in charge. So, when you are a helper, you should help everyone as much as you can and not give special permission to people. Or when you are team captain, you should not only choose your friends and leave out certain people. Or if you are older, we cannot order and boss people around. Sometimes, this can turn into bullying, and we all know bullying is not okay.

Wow, so now we can see that being brave is so much more than just being tough and fighting a war. Bravery is a quality that we have to strengthen in ourselves with good choices. We always think of fighting when we think of bravery, but Islam teaches us that many times, bravery means not doing something bad, not saying something unkind, not using our power unfairly, and not listening to the voice that tells us to make bad choices. Sometimes, it's standing up and speaking the truth. So, bravery is much more than just fighting. Imam Husain (A) and his army showed us all types of bravery, not just fighting, but every example that was mentioned in this speech.

We pray that Allah gives us the strength and tawfeeq to become truly brave people — those who make Allah happy — and that we can use this bravery to help our beloved Imam Mahdi (AJ) spread the truth and justice.

Museebah:

اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ا بَا عَبْدِ اَللَّهِ

وَعَلَىٰ اَلا رْوَاحِ اَلَّتِي حَلَّتْ بِفِنَائِكَ

عَلَيْكَ مِنِّي سَلاَمُ اَللَّهِ ا بَداً

مَا بَقِيتُ وَبَقِيَ اَللَّيْلُ وَاَلنَّهَارُ

وَلاَ جَعَلَهُ اَللَّهُ آخِرَ اَلْعَهْدِ مِنِّي لِزِيَارَتِكُمْ

اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَىٰ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ عَلِيِّ بْنِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ ا وْلاَدِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

وَعَلَىٰ ا صْحَابِ اَلْحُسَيْنِ

What is going on in Karbala? Take yourself back in time; take yourself to the plains of Karbala.

It is the night of Ashura. Sayyidah Zainab paces around the camp. Who knows what is going on in the heart of this great lady? Some say that Sayyidah Zainab herself started checking up on the tents in the middle of the night. First, she went to the companions' tents, listening to the words of Zubair, Burair, Muslim ibn Awsaja, and Habib. They were telling Imam Husain (A) that they would never leave his side!

Then, she went to tent of her family, Bani Hashim. She saw that everyone had gathered

around Hadhrat Abbas, all of them talking about how they would bravely defend their Imam Husain (A) tomorrow. Zainab felt a little peace in her heart. But this is Zainab, the dear sister of Imam Husain (A) who had never been apart from her dear Imam and brother.

The next day, Sayyidah Zainab watches as the companions and then family members go out to the battlefield, one by one, giving their lives for their Imam. Alas, Imam Husain (A) is on his own

Imam Husain (A) started preparing himself for the last goodbyes. He came to the tents and everyone started crying. Imam Hussain (A) calmly said to his family, "Trust in Allah; do not cry; you must be patient."

It was time for battle. Imam Husain (A) charged into the battlefield like a brave warrior. He fought bravely, even though he had not drank water for days. But there are so many enemies. It is written that he had as many as 72 to 4,000 wounds. He rests for a moment, and Harmala (LA) takes a poisoned arrow and aims it at the Imam (A).
Imam Husain (A) falls off the horse and Sayyidah Zainab cries out, "Are you Muslims?! You behave like this!"

After a while, someone finally tried to bring water to Imam Husain (A), but it was too late. Imam Husain (A) had left this world, reciting du'a. He said, "O' Allah I am happy with whatever you want for me."

Speech #10: Good Choices

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
وَالْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلاةُ وَالسَّلامُ عَلَى أَشْرَفِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ اَبِى الْقَاسِمِ مُحَمَّد
وَعَلَى آلِهِ الطَّيِّبِينَ الطَّاهِرِينَ سِيَّمَا بَقِيَّةُ اللهِ فِى الْاَرَضِين

Lesson Objectives:
- Children will learn about the importance of being good to parents
- Children will learn how they can practically be good to their parents

Lecture Content:
There are many *ahadith* and *ayaat* of the Holy Quran that remind us that Allah has created us to make good choices in this world, so that we can get to the highest level of *jannah*. Just like if you're giving a test, you want to study hard and not waste your time, so you can get a good grade, and so you can get into a good college. It's the same with this *dunya*, this earth; we need to make good choices so that we can get to the highest level of *jannah* and become people that are close to Allah, inshaAllah.

One of the things we should be aware of is how to make ourselves stronger so we can make good choices and so we don't accidentally make bad choices. I'm sure you've all experienced how sometimes you have to pick between two choices, and in your heart you know one is good and the other is bad, but it is still hard to choose. We always have to choose that choice that will make us closer to Allah and give us reward, but it's not always easy.

One of the ways it becomes easy is when you make yourself stronger. There are many ways to do that; praying *Salaah*, being good to your parents, coming to this majlis, thinking, being kind, being nice to others, helping your parents, reading Quran, reciting salawat, and cleaning the masjid can all make you stronger to make good choices. Everyday, we are faced with choices: should I play video games or should I pray right now? Should I help my mom clean the table or should I just lie on the couch? All of these are when you have to make choices. We have to make lots of choices every day, and one of the ways we can make ourselves stronger to make good choices is by doing these good deeds.

The second way to make yourself stronger is by staying away from that which makes you weaker. One of these things that keeps us away from good things is Shaytaan.
There's a beautiful avah in Surah Nahl where Allah savs:

إِنَّهُ لَيْسَ لَهُ سُلْطَانٌ عَلَى الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ
"Shaytaan can not misguide those who have faith and trust Allah." (16:99)

So, we have to make our belief stronger, since this will make Shaytaan weaker, and this can only happen when we do good deeds.

Let me tell you a story that will tell you 6 things that will make Shaytaan weak and you stronger.
One day, the Prophet (S) saw Shaytaan. He was looking very weak, old, and sick.

The Prophet asked him, "What happened to you that you look so weak like this?"

Shaytaan replied, "It's because of your followers!" *(Ask kids)* Who is he talking about? Yes,

he's talking about us!

The Prophet said, "What about my followers? What did they do?"

"There are 6 things that whenever your followers do, I become weak and I cannot make them choose bad choices."

(To kids) Are you guys ready to hear the 6 things? Let's recite a loud salawat and I will tell you.

The first thing is that when Muslims see each other, they say salam to each other. That's interesting, huh? What does salam have to do with anything? Let me tell you. First off all, saying salam is very important. Saying hi is okay, but hi and hello don't have something special that salam does. When you say salam, you're saying "peace." Salam is also one of Allah's names. When you say peace, you're saying the other person will be at peace. Peace from what? From you! You're promising them that you're not going to make them sad or do anything to hurt them or be mean to them. You're going to act in a peaceful way with them. Isn't that so cool? Salam has those benefits, but hi and hello don't.

The person who says salam gets 69 benefits, but the person who replies only gets 1. That's how important salam is. The Prophet always used to say salam to everyone. Let me tell you a story. Kids really loved the Prophet. Every time he used to walk by, they used to run to him and hug him and learn from him. But, the Prophet always said salam first. So, one day, the kids decided they were going to hide from the Prophet, and when he walked by, they would jump out and say salam to him first. As they were walking over there, Allah gave the Prophet the knowledge that the kids were hiding. So, when he walked by, he said, "Salam alaykum, kids behind the wall!" The kids were so shocked and said, "Aww, we wanted to say salam first!" They came out and ran and gave the Prophet hugs, but they understood that when they go back home or when they see their friends, they should say salam first because it was very important to the Prophet (S). So the first thing that keeps Shaytaan away is saying salam.

The second thing is that when they meet each other, they shake hands. Shaking hands is a way of making us stronger brothers and sisters. Of course, brothers can shake the brothers' hands, and sisters can shake the sisters' hands. This way, we can become stronger Muslims that always help each other, and we show each other that we love each other this way. So, the first way to keep Shaytaan away is by saying salam, and the second way is by shaking hands.

The third one is that whenever they want to do something, they say inshaAllah – if Allah wants. Whatever Allah knows is best, inshaAllah that will happen. So, if they're going to school or on a trip, they say, "We're going to go camping, inshaAllah." "I'm going to go to school tomorrow, inshaAllah." "I'm going on a trip, inshaAllah." Because they always trust Allah and because they know Allah knows what's best for them, they say they will do something if Allah thinks it's best. So, they say salam, they shake hands, they say insha'Allah.

The fourth thing that makes Shaytaan so weak is that whenever the believers want to start something, they say "Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Rahim." This is very important to say. When you say Bismillah, whose help are you getting? You're getting Allah's help. And when you have Allah's help, of course Allah will help you do that project to the best of your ability. So, if you want to do anything – math, science, homework, eating, drinking, or anything – we

always need to remember to say bismillah.

The fifth one is istighfar; they always ask for forgiveness. If a believer makes a mistake, they go back to Allah and say, "Allah, I'm sorry. Please help me be better and not make this mistake again." Whenever they say Astaghfirullah, Shaytaan says, "Oh no, they are destroying all my hard work!" And he gets very, very weak. So remember, even if sometimes we make a bad choice, Allah is just waiting for us. In fact, Allah tells the Angels not to write down our bad deeds just yet because maybe we'll say sorry. But when it comes to good things, Allah says write it down right away even if we haven't done it and thought about doing it. You see what a kind Allah we have!

So the first one was saying salam, the second was shaking hands, the third was saying insha'Allah, the fourth was saying bismillah, and the fifth was asking for forgiveness. The last thing that weakens Shaytaan from hurting us is saying Salawat. *Pause for Salawaat*. Salawat is so important because all of the good things we learn are through the Prophet (S) and Imams (A). If Imam Husain (A) didn't go to Karbala and go through such a hard time, how would we know how to make good choices? In fact, let me tell you a beautiful story.

When the Prophet went up to *Jannah* and through the seven heavens, Angel Jibra'el took him on a beautiful creature that looked like a horse, called Buraaq. They went up to one of the heavens, and the Prophet saw a very strange angel. This angel was strange because it had so many hands, and from every hand, it had so many fingers, and it just kept counting and counting and counting on each finger. It could count better than any supercomputer you could have! The Prophet (S) asked Jibrael, "What is this angel's job? What is it counting?"

The angel said, "I am responsible to count all the raindrops in the world. I know every single raindrop that fell on this earth. I can tell you where it fell, when it fell – I can tell you all about it!" Imagine how many raindrops come when we have a storm!

The Prophet was very impressed. Then, he asked him a very good question, "O' Angel, is there something that you can't count?"

The angel said, "Actually, there is one thing."

"Really? What's that?"

"When a group of people get together and send a Salawat, I can't count how many rewards they get!" Send a salawat! That's amazing that salawat has so much importance!

So, these are the 6 things that make Shaytaan weak. Let's review: first, we must say salam. Next, we have to shake hands, especially at the masjid. Third, we should say inshaAllah whenever we make a plan. Fourth, we should say Bismillah before starting anything. Fifth, we should ask Allah for forgiveness when we make a mistake. And finally, we should send lots of salawat!

Shaytaan gets so happy when we waste time because when we waste time, we're not using it to do good deeds. So, let's make ourselves stronger by taking advantage of these 6 deeds. In order to make our souls stronger, we need to do exercises for our souls, and that exercise is these good deeds. Who thinks they can do all these 6 things from now on?

Let us pray that Allah gives us all the *tawfeeq* to do these six good deeds, and even more good deeds, inshaAllah, so that we can make our souls stronger and Shaytaan weaker.

Shaam-e-Ghareeban

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
وَالْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلاةُ وَالسَّلامُ عَلى أَشْرَفِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ اَبِى الْقَاسِمِ مُحَمَّد
وَعَلى آلِهِ الطَّيِّبِينَ الطَّاهِرِينَ سِيَّمَا بَقِيَّةُ اللهِ فِى الْاَرَضِين

On the eve of Shaam-e-Ghareeban, the enemies attacked the camp of Imam Husain (A). The women and children were already grieving and crying for their loved ones, but on top of that, Yazid's army began attacking them. They set the tents on fire and began stealing all their valuables.

An Arab man narrates a very sad story. It was now later in the evening. The tents were burning and children were crying.

In the middle of the desert, there was a little girl who looked very sad. He says, "I approached her and she got very scared. She thought I was going to hurt or bother her. I said to her, 'No dear child, I am also a father and have a young daughter as well. I'm not going to hurt you.'

The little girl said to me, 'I have one request.'

I asked, 'What is it dear girl?'

She said, 'I want to ask you something, but I'm scared.'

I said 'Don't be afraid; tell me what you want.'

She said, 'I haven't drunk water for many days and am very thirsty.'

My heart broke and I said, 'Yes, wait here. I will bring you some water. I brought her some water. But instead of drinking the water, she began walking somewhere.

I asked her 'Where are you going?'

She said, 'Can you tell me where the fight took place? I heard that my father died thirsty, and he was much more thirstier than I am. I want to give my Baba some water.'

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